



# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

## DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

### *Auxiliary Communique - Fall 2012*

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## Facts and the Future

**Ann Crawford**  
Leadership Chairman

"In 1943, the American Legion initiated action that would benefit the veterans of World War II. Nicknamed the "GI Bill of Rights," this bill was drafted by American Legion rehabilitation experts. The Auxiliary began an all-out campaign for the bill, taking the message into cities and towns across America. The effort resulted in the passage of the "Servicemen's Readjustment of 1944" through both Houses of Congress without a dissenting vote."

The American Legion Family has led the nation in helping our veterans and their families throughout its history. Many of these facts are highlighted in the American Legion Auxiliary's Leadership Correspondence Course. The Course is now available in a power point version. There is also a version for the Juniors. The information can be found on the National Website of

the American Legion Auxiliary – [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org).

As we strive to develop and prepare knowledgeable and capable leaders to carry out the growth and success of the Auxiliary, we need to promote activities and resources that educate, motivate, and mentor members on all levels and phases of our programs. We must continue to move forward for a stronger organization filled with potential future leaders. We must provide them with opportunities to use their special skills and energy. We must constantly be looking for those with the potential to become leaders of tomorrow. We need to reach out to the younger women in our communities and show them what the Auxiliary can do to expand their confidence and leadership abilities while helping our Veterans and their families every day.

*"We should all be concerned about the future because we will have to spend the rest of our lives there."*

**Charles F Kettering**

## Public Relations

**Bobbie Pipho**  
PR Chairman

The year has barely started, but I'm certain that many Units have done something "newsworthy." Have you participated in community activities that are supportive of our veterans? Have you sponsored a fund raiser to help homeless veterans? Have you done something that might seem minor to you, but would mean so much more if the public knew about it? Now, the really tough question.....have you advertised what you've done? That means writing up an article and sending it to your local newspaper or maybe getting in touch with your local TV station. Develop a relationship with the media and spread the word about how the Auxiliary members are working for the Veterans and for the communities.

Please send me copies of your articles. This is another way to let others know what your Units are doing. My mid-year report is due to Central Division in December and I would love to be able to send tons of examples where Iowa has promoted the Auxiliary and the work we do via the media. And, as always, remember by advertising what we do when we do it, we ARE Saluting Our Flag/Saluting Our Veterans.

## ALA Office Information

*If you need assistance in Membership or Girls State please e-mail Jeannie at [alamembership@ialegion.org](mailto:alamembership@ialegion.org). If you need assistance in Accounting (Obligations) or Junior Camp, e-mail Traci at [alaaccounting@ialegion.org](mailto:alaaccounting@ialegion.org). All other questions may be directed to Marlene at [alasectreas@ialegion.org](mailto:alasectreas@ialegion.org). The office phone - 515-282-7987 - is answered between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and Noon and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you receive a voice mail message when calling during regular office hours please leave a message. The office has two (2) lines but if both lines are being used your call rolls over to voice mail. Your call will be answered as soon as possible. After hours please leave a message on the voice mail. The office is closed on Saturday and Sunday.*

## History Report

**Cindy Meyer**  
Department Historian

Esmeralda, the gypsy, says, "It is easy to foresee the future, but it is hard to see the past once it is gone." So make a list of future photos that you will need to record your history and bring your camera to those meetings and events. Take that photo and get the facts before the opportunity disappears. Then send them to me, so we can include them in President Mary's Scrapbook.

How many of you wear that button portraying the veteran you are eligible under? Now I challenge you to get that veteran's HISTORY as part of the Veterans History Project. You are responsible for recording it for future generations

## Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

**Sharon Anderson**  
VA&R Chairman

We are focusing on the following this year:

**Homeless Veterans:** Do you realize that many of our veterans sleep on the streets, parks, wooded areas? They do not use the VA services nor even aware of them. They become homeless - rising unemployment, costs of living, physical and mental health issues, addiction, and our veterans return with PTSD and TBI are just some of the conditions they come home with. Some don't remember being married or having children. Let's do everything we can to be of service to our homeless veterans. "Stand Downs" are part of the VA&R, providing services to homeless veterans. These stand downs last 1 to 3 days providing services to the homeless veterans such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, haircuts, VA and Social Security benefits, housing, and more. If you would like to volunteer at one of our

so they can "Salute Our Veterans!" Then submit your narrative for the Veterans History Contest – a great project for Juniors.

National also wants us to collect information about famous Auxiliary members. Maybe you have a member in your Unit that needs to be remembered as a famous member. Send their full name, years of Auxiliary membership and details of what they did and why they are famous. Include where and how you found this information. Send to the National Historian by June 1, 2013.

Don't forget to start NOW preparing for the History Contests. Don't wait – "because the present will become the past all too soon!"

## Education

**Jayne Soppe**  
Education Chairman

This year as we are Saluting Our Flag/Saluting Our Veterans every Unit needs to promote education. *Give 10 to Education* – every Unit can contribute 10 items whether they are pens, pencils, notebooks and /or backpacks to an armory, school or guidance counselor for distribution. Don't forget to participate in American Education Week, November 11-17, 2012. Recognize teachers and school employees with treats or cards of appreciation. This year's theme is "*Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility.*" Mentor Juniors to be peer support for military kids- speak to school counselors to have a Junior. Pair up with a military child for support and friendship. Schedule "*Veterans in the Classroom*" at your school - help arrange a classroom visit so veterans can talk about their military experiences and how they are the same/different than today's heroes. **Participate** by awarding local merit awards as well as Promoting the Department and National merit awards – **Publish** your results – including pictures of the winners. See your Plan of Action for more information and due dates and pages 40-42 in your Blue Book for merit awards available and rules. Don't forget our Unit Program Narratives for Most Outstanding American Education Program, Literacy Program, Scholarship Program and Veterans in the Classroom Program and the Honoring the Service of our Military as well as the Give 10 to Education( all Units participating in Give 10 will be given a certificate). Every Unit large or small can participate in Education so **Plan** your projects for the year, **Participate** in them, **Promote** all the available merit awards and remember to **Publish** your results with pictures and we all win for Education!

## POINTS OF INTEREST FOR THE UNIT

Department Obligations are Veterans Facility Funds, Blanket Fidelity Bond, ALA Communique subscriptions, Per Capita and Veterans Assistant Fund. These obligations are on a form which is in the packets obtained at School of Instruction for the individual Units. These forms have been calculated for each Unit using the membership of the previous year at the close of the Department books. Deadline is October 20, 2012. **PLEASE REMEMBER IT IS JUST LIKE RECEIVING A BILL; IT IS PAYABLE WHEN DUE. Units do not need to vote on these obligations. The Unit Treasurer should send a check to Department upon receiving the Unit Obligation Form.**

**Definitions: Veterans Facility Fund** – Formally the Christmas Gift Shop; **Blanket Fidelity Bond** – Employee dishonest insurance is bought through an individual (which in this case means the Unit is the individual); **ALA Communique** – This is the communication between the Department and the Unit. It is located in the middle of the Legionnaire. This is per senior members only; **Veterans Assistance Fund** – Purchase of items used at the VA facilities such as combs etc.; **Per Capita** – It is the same as saying **per** member (A Unit should have two accounts-General Fund and the Welfare Fund. The per capita can be taken from both of these accounts. The obligation is \$ .60 so from the General Fund Account you may take \$ .45 per member and from the Welfare Fund Account the amount of \$ .15 per member. If a Unit wishes the entire \$ .60 per member may be taken from the General Fund Account.)

