



# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

## DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

*Auxiliary Communique - Winter 2012/2013*

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### *American Legion of Iowa Auxiliary President*



**Mary Littrell**  
2012 - 2013

Hello to each and everyone of you! As I write this article, we are #1 in the Nation and #1 in Central Division in membership. Keep those membership dues coming in!

Since the last issue those of us that attended National Convention in Indianapolis had a great time of learning and making new friends. Voting electronically for the first time was a bit of challenge but we did it! Iowa received several awards which we were proud to accept. They are listed elsewhere in this publication. Congratulations to you all!

We proudly carried our traditional corn stalks in the parade and thanks to Martha and Dave Travis for bringing them to Indianapolis. Makes a great sight in the parade. Having dinner with eight of my nine District Presidents was a fun time together.

Highlight of the week was being installed as your Department President on Thursday along with Mary Jo Berning as National Central Division Vice President. After arriving home I took part in the Stand Down for Homeless Veterans held in Cedar Rapids along with two of my Unit members Kay Calkins and Linda Walker and Jan Carlton from Keokuk. We helped with security, setting up and serving the noon meal. There were 200 registered participants.

The next week was the National Tee Tournament hosted by the Iowa City VA and I helped for three days of serving meals in the morning, at noon and again in the evening. This event is for blind and nearly blind veterans from all across the Nation and even Puerto Rico. Five different golf courses in the area were used. There was close to two hundred participants. It was a great event.

Then the District Conferences started. 9<sup>th</sup> District President Claudia Brown had the first one on Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> in Newell. The day before my traveling companion Diana Shaddock and I plus other Auxiliary members and Legionnaires traveled

up along the Loess Hills to visit the Sioux Falls VA facility. They have a state of the art Emergency Room and remodeling continues to take place throughout the facility. As we headed to Storm Lake for the evening hospitality the little red van had to make a stop in LeMars for their famous Blue Bunny ice cream. That evening District Commander Jim and District President Claudia hosted a meal at the Lakeshore Restaurant. Great conference on Saturday and then it was on to Livermore to take part with Past Department President Martha Travis in presenting the Auxiliary their charter. What a great looking group of ladies in their sharp outfits and I am looking forward to working with all of you. We were then on the road to Webster City where Janet Lich 8<sup>th</sup> District President held her conference on Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup>. The membership team led by Christiana Lueben had a very cute skit. The next week end we headed west again and visited the Omaha VA on Friday before 7<sup>th</sup> District Conference. Lots of remodeling and plans are in place for a separate Women's clinic. That evening 7<sup>th</sup> District hosted hospitality at the Legion Post in Avoca. Entertainment by a group of young men sang a medley of patriotic songs and also included my hymn of "Amazing Grace." They were super! Patsy Martin had a great conference on Saturday and a large group of ladies were in attendance. Once again it meant a stop on the way home for Diana and me for ice cream. I attended the Polk County meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup> with County President Marie Hutcheson presiding. A great program was held and the ladies are busy serving our Veterans. I attended an event in Vinton to present a 90 year old World War II/ Korean War Veteran his 60 year Korean War certificate.

I traveled to Marshalltown for the VAC meeting and helped serve lunch in the Copper Kettle to approximately 30 residents. This is a homemade meal that they sign up for once a month. I took part in the presentation of Volunteer Hours awarded to their volunteers with a reception following. These volunteers are doing so much to make the residents have a brighter day in their lives. Thank You!!

My own Johnson County meeting was held on September 24<sup>th</sup> and Solon hosted the meeting. County President Kris Ross from North

Liberty had a great group of ladies in attendance. The next evening I was in Newton for the Jasper County meeting with County President Ann Dutton. Newton ladies had a great meal and Jasper County is very active in serving our Veterans. On Friday September 28 we did the Iowa City VA facility tour. I was so proud to be able to show off the Women's Clinic. We are so proud of this area in the hospital as it is the only one of the four VA Medical Centers that we serve that have a complete separate area for female veterans. That evening we traveled to Marion for the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Conference the next day. Diana and I did find a Dairy Queen in Marion so that meant we all had to have ice cream that afternoon. Friday evening was spent at the Marion Post and what a feast they had for us. Great job folks. District President Rhonda had a great meeting and was nice to see and visit with Past Department Presidents Jeanne, Rozena and Virginia.

On October 5 we visited the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown and were given tours of the new resident houses. They are beautifully furnished and have such a warm feeling. As there were three conferences the next day, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>, I attended the 5<sup>th</sup> in Albia. District President Sue had a nice group in attendance and I had the honor of presenting Department Junior President Mikayla Houseman the First place National Central Division Junior plaque for the most Field Service hours for 2011-2012. She also received a National citation for her service of organizing and collecting clothing for Homeless Veterans.

The last President/Secretaries Fall Conference was held in Indianapolis on October 14-17. Marlene and I were honored to have special seating and recognition at the banquet. This was possible because of you sending in your membership and making us #1 in the Nation as well as Central Division. Back home, and on October 20 the 4<sup>th</sup> District Conference was held in Oelwein. Diana and I once again found ice cream at the DQ and that evening the Post had a great hospitality. District President Connie did a great job of conducting her meeting and what a cute skit with the Membership team and their car. They had a great silent auction and

### **"Saluting Our Flag - Saluting Our Veterans"**

whoever made the quart jar of sweet pickles that I bid on, they WERE so good.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> I attended the Advisory and Finance meetings at the Department office. Lots of hard work goes into these meetings. Our Finance committee does a super job of seeing that the budget for our great organization is in place.

Halloween found me at the Iowa Veterans Home and serving as a judge for the costume contest. A great time was held by all in attendance. Shellsburg Post and Unit had their Family Birthday soup and sandwich get together on Sunday, November 4. Good attendance with Past Department President Martha in charge of the event. The evening before my own Unit in Iowa City had their annual soup supper which I had a part of by making all the noodles and putting together the chicken noodle

soup. They had a great turn out of people from the community attending. On Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> I took part in dedicating a Blue Star Memorial marker in the town of Exira. The temperature was 72 degrees and winds of 35 miles per hour and the Exira Auxiliary ladies served a lunch following the dedication. That evening I attended the Waverly membership dinner with 78 in attendance. Interesting talks were given by their Boys State Citizens. Sunday, November 11, I participated in the Johnson County Veterans Day services held in Swisher and in the evening Bev Helmers from Coralville and I participated in the Johnson County Veterans Affairs banquet held at the Casino in Riverside.

Until next time I want to wish you all safe travels and a Happy Holiday!

### **Girls State Alumna Association**

**Meribeth Haynes, Chairman**

The Iowa Girls State Alumna Association held their Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 16, 2012. At this time the Alumna Association voted to reactivate for the coming year. The following members are currently serving as Board Members:

Meribeth Haynes — Chairperson  
Kelly Elliot — Secretary/Treasurer  
Pam Clark  
Leslie Behaunek  
Jackie Burk

Dues and donations are used to support and enhance the GS program. Over the past couple of years the Alumna Association has purchased or provided the following materials and/or services for Iowa Girls State:

Purchased a computer and printer  
Floor decorations for each dorm floor  
New flags, standards, and poles  
IT Tech support  
Matching Funds to 11 Units to send 11 girls to GS  
Merit Awards

To be purchased yet – new banner and a new Gov. Plaque for Dept. Office

The Alumna Association plans to have information on the Auxiliary website, the *ALA Communique*, and yet to be set up – an online newspaper and a Facebook page.

Memberships need to be sent to Kelly Elliot first who will be setting up a database of members. Kelly will then forward the checks to the Department Office. Checks need to be made out to the Iowa Girls State Alumna Association.

Any questions concerning the Alumna Association should be directed to Meribeth Haynes - [meribeth.haynes@gmail.com](mailto:meribeth.haynes@gmail.com).

### **Department Historian Cindy Meyer**

I hope this will help District Historians and me do our jobs this year. I have received just a few pictures from your District Fall Conferences. Hope each of you have a big envelope for me at Mid-Winter Conference. I've heard that all of your conferences were wonderful. Don't forget to include a program and pictures of President Mary (if she attended) and yourself - the more the merrier!!! Add a paragraph describing your conference and President Mary's visit. Thanks for all that you do. Be sure to identify the pictures and information you send to me.

*For God and Country, Cindy Meyer, Department Historian*