



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

Auxiliary Communique - Winter 2012/2013

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Past District Presidents Luncheon

Vickie Klinkhammer, Past District Presidents Parley

All Past District Presidents and Current District Presidents are cordially invited to the 22th Annual Past District President's Luncheon on Saturday, February 2, 2013, at 11:45 A.M. in the Iowa Room during the Mid-Winter Conference. Paid reservations are to be sent to Past District President Parley Secretary-Treasurer **Joyce Elliot, 580 19th St., Nevada, Iowa 50201**, as soon as possible but **no later than January 21, 2013**.

The luncheon cost will be \$24.00 and that includes the meal, tax and gratuity. We will have Smoked Beef Brisket Melt, Broccoli Bacon Sunflower Salad, Chips, Fresh Baked Cookie, and Beverage.

All Past District Presidents and the Current District Presidents are welcome to attend this special luncheon with Department President Mary Littrell. Since the Sidewalk Café is the only restaurant in the hotel, the line for lunch will be long. Save yourself the aggravation and join us for a good time. A short business meeting will be held to elect new officers and a memorial service by Vice President Sharon Anderson. Please share this invitation with your Past District Presidents. I look forward to seeing you there.

Community Service

Robin Willits, Department Chairman

The ALA year is underway and hopefully your Units are busy serving the veterans in your communities. There are many Community Service projects available to help change the lives of veterans and our special focus this year the homeless veterans.

Are you utilizing the resources and tools available? Refer to the *Plan of Action* on the Department and National websites for information, suggestions, ideas and awards. Continue to record your community service hours for individual members and report them in the Unit and the Member Year End Reports. It is important to look at these forms now so that you can be recording the information all year long. If you have questions, feel free to contact me at robinwillits@gmail.com or 641-486-5392.

ALA Units also need to send PSA's (Public Service Announcements) to your local newspapers, TV stations and radio stations to announce the event. This kind of publicity is great for our Units and veterans. Thank you for all you do for our veterans!

Past President Carter's Project

A tribute to women who have served their country was dedicated at the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown this past summer. The tribute was a project of Virginia Carter during her 2088-2009 term as President of the Iowa Department of the American Legion Auxiliary. Virginia is a veteran of the United States Air Force and a member of the Wapsie ALA Unit #473.

The project is a cabinet display of women in uniform with a plaque honoring the past and present women who have honorably served our country. The display is in Malloy Hall at IVH.

Lamoni Membership Winner!

Congratulations to over 148 Units who attained 80% to 100% of their membership goal by October 31, 201. You were all eligible for the department Membership drawing held at the Department Office. Congratulations to Lamoni Unit #51, 5th District. One small Unit with 18 members strong. When we retain and gain members at 100%, our veterans become the winners. Thank you and keep asking your community members to join our organization.

Chaplain's Corner

Mary Bryan, Department Chaplain

Greetings Legion Auxiliary Sisters and all who are reading this! I hope your transition into fall from summer was a good one. We have so much to be thankful for even in the face of failing crops, storms, and other things that get in our way. Thanksgiving is a time to share time with those you love or look into your heart and thank God for all that you are blessed with.

It only takes a minute to look around and be thankful for what you have. Jeremiah 29:11 *"For I know the plans I have for you..."* Oh, wouldn't it be nice to know those plans? I love knowing that God knows and has a plan for me. So, with that in mind, go and do good things. Good things for you, your

friends, your Auxiliary and everyone you come in contact with. Life is serious business as we all well know as we watched the east coast succumb to hurricane Sandy. So many of our Auxiliary sisters lost everything they own. That storm brought back vivid memories of four years ago when the mid-west endured massive flooding. We are testimony that life goes on. Things change and we become stronger for having endured such things.

We are stronger for having veterans in our lives. They taught us first how to endure many things and keep our love strong during separations. I pray that our Auxiliary sisters reach out to us by

letting us know what they need. They need to know they are not alone.

Blessings to all of you during this Thanksgiving and Christmas season. I have been praying for all of my Auxiliary sisters and our veterans and soldiers both near and far. I have been reading our messages from our National Chaplain when she shares on the National Chaplain's Face Book page.

I remind you to send prayers and inspirations to me for Department President Mary's book. Lastly, I grieve for each of our members that have passed away when I receive notice.

Legislative Report

Vickie Klinkhammer, Legislative Chairman

Well, now that the election is over, the phone calls and T.V. Commercials have ended, and whether your candidate won or lost, it is time to get back to other legislative matters that affect our veterans. There are many bills that have been introduced in 2011-2012 that we need our senators and congressmen to consider supporting. I would like to thank Past Department President, Fran Kirk for forwarding the following information on to me. The information was compiled by Auxiliary Member, Marion Kruzich, Unit#274. Please review below:

Veterans Health Care:

H.R. 5 Protecting Access to Health Care Act
H.R. 3895 Protect VA Health Care Act
H.R. 5994 Choice in Health Care

Homeless Veterans:

H.R. 2179 Amend Title 38 to use unused funds from Homeland Transportation Security Administration for Homeless Veterans.
H.R. 3298 Homes for Heroes Act
H.R. 3546 Senior Veterans Housing Act
H.R. 4079 Safe Housing for Homeless Veterans Act
S. 3476 Improving Access to Child Care for Homeless Families

Jobs for Veterans:

H.R. 5845 Veterans Back to Work Act

Blind Veterans:

H.R. The Blinded Veterans Adaptive Housing Improvement Act of 2012
Increase the Blind Veterans Funds from \$12,000. to \$13, 756., cost of living raise.

Dogs Ease Pain of PTSD:

H.R.1154 Veterans Equal Treatment for Service Dogs
S. 1838 Pilot Program on Service Dog Training Therapy

PTSD:

H.A.MDT 1158 to H.R. 5854 Amendment Prosthetic Account for PSTD
H.AMDT 1387 to H.R. 5856 Increase to 10 Million Dollars Funds for PSTD
S.1391 to Amend Title 38 United States Code to Improve Disability Evaluation Procedure for Veterans with PTSD or Mental Health Condition.

Women Veterans:

H.R. 4271 Violence Against Women Act
S. 1925 Violence Against Women Act
S. 2338 Violence Against Women Act

With the guess work taken out of the equation, there is no excuse for us not to contact our representatives in regards to these bills and would like to see them support. You can contact them by snail mail, e-mail, or by phone and mention the bills I have listed. For contact information, go to our Auxiliary Website, click on Plan of Action, then go to the Legislative page and you will find the contact information needed. While on our website, please sign your name to the Flag Amendment if you have not already done so. It is very easy. On the home page, scroll down to the bottom and you will see The Flag Amendment link, click on it, you will be asked a few questions, submit, and it will be sent directly to the proper representatives. Please make your voice be heard. If any member sees other bills that affect our veterans which needs support, please pass them on to me: Vickie Klinkhammer, 1630 Cornell St, Dubuque, IA 52001 or klinkman2@juno.com.