



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

Auxiliary Communique - Winter 2015-2016

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Auxiliary President Tammy - Installation Address



Tammy Wright
2015 - 2016

Season's Greetings and Happy New Year American Legion Auxiliary Stars! Thank you for all you continue to do to "Honor our Veterans – Past, Present and Future!" I have been to the Sidney rodeo, Iowa State Fair, county meetings, Unit events, District Conferences, Veterans Day and American Legion Auxiliary birthday celebrations and more. I appreciate all of the hospitality that has been shown to me and my



traveling companions.

I'd like to thank National Executive Committeewoman Ann Crawford, Past Department President Linda Mullen, Strategic Planning Committee members Karen Ripperger and Heidi Hromidko and Junior member Kali Ainesworth for joining me in Minnesota for Auxiliary Mission Training and Division Junior meeting while Dawn Aberle led the Membership Turn in breakout back in Breda! Thank you ladies for your sharing your time, talents and leadership with our great organization! Please refer often to our website and Plan of Action for ideas and suggestions.

As I write, Iowa 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 Vice President Sharon Anderson and many Past Department Presidents for representing the Department of Iowa American Legion Auxiliary when I have not been available. Your leadership is appreciated.

I'm looking forward to 2016 and a fun and educational Midwinter Convention as we try some new things and bring back some things from the past. 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. My goals this year are communication within our organization and our Legion Family, sharing knowledge all while enjoying each other and a little fun too. Thank you for all that you do!

Education: Veterans in Community Schools

Submitted by Susan Britton/Diane Rousseau
National Education Chairman/Committee Member

Effective immediately, "Veterans in the Classroom" will be called Veterans in Community Schools.

The American veteran remains a source of vital information about service to our country and bears the responsibility of passing on lessons gained from their service.

School systems and the manner in which external groups and volunteers operate within them have changed rapidly since the inception of the program, requiring a broader focus on how American Legion members interact with local school communities. Many more pressing options to become involved with local school communities exist than making a single presentation to a classroom or assembly of students.

To reflect this, The American Legion Committee on Youth Education decided to rename this program "Veterans in Community Schools" at their Fall meetings. It was felt that a renewed effort be taken by Departments to revamp a consistent and ongoing partnership between Posts/Units and their community school systems.

This change takes effect immediately. Please be sure to share

this information so that word gets out as quickly as possible.

Here are a few helpful hints on putting together Veterans in Community Schools activities:

- Contact your local school(s) with your idea student-body assembly.
- Work with the school to develop a plan for the program that will be beneficial to their students and have discussions with students, flag program, Americanism topics, the Pledge of Allegiance, 23-minute video "America's Veterans" etc.).
- Be professional
- Before going to the school, make sure everyone knows questions and talking points with the veterans in advance so everyone feels at ease.
- Promote the event through local media
- Wear your American Legion Auxiliary apparel when you visit - recognition!
- After the program, be sure to follow up with those to be thanked; Unit members and Legionnaires excited about, th and offer to organize a program for a class, grade level, or e program, and encourage them to participate. (i.e., Q & .R remember that everyone is

representing The American Legion Family their roles.

Go through a list of potential via social media accounts. it the schools . Remember: I t's brand up with the veterans and schools with t hank - y ou notes . E veryone Check out the following for even more details:

- The n Education Program and has ideas for the member, unit, and department levels.
- The Plan of Action also has Community Schools Activity."
- Go to • Check out the publication "Veterans in American Legion's website at www.legion.org/publications for helpful hints.

National Education Plan of Action highlights this activity as a major "What Can You Do?" in the four pages of information through "How to Organize Veterans in www.ALAforVeterans.org to find both of the above Community School - mentioned items.

If we all work together with our Legion families and do a Veterans in Community Schools program, we will enhance respect for the sacrifices of our military heroes among school children. Let's do it now!



Diva Day is on!!!

Lorna Golson, Department AEF Chairman
lornagolson@yahoo.com

I just got the word that we can hold a Diva Day at Mid-Winter Conference to benefit the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF). Thanks to the efforts of Executive Director Marlene Valentine and Legion Adjutant John Derner the

Hotel has offered us a room at the hotel at no additional charge.

It will be Friday, February 12, 2016 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. We will have 10 tables available for vendors and services.

So now it's your turn. I need vendors for the event. If you, or a friend of yours, has a business that sells items or services that any Auxiliary Diva or her Legion Family members would love and would like to have a table for Diva Day please contact me by December 15, 2015. Please send responses or questions to lornagolson@yahoo.com. Do not contact the Department Office.

The cost will be \$20.00 per table, 10% of your sales and one item with a value of \$10.00 or less for door prizes. No money needs to be sent at this time.

I will be contacting Des Moines area cosmetology and massage therapy schools to see if their students could volunteer that day for manicures/pedicures or chair massages. More on that later.

If you aren't able to participate as a vendor please come to Mid-Winter prepared to purchase some wonderful items from the vendors to support them and the AEF. Your support and participation in this Diva Day is appreciated.

Remember the AEF is National President Sharon Conaster and Department President Tammy Wright's project so let's Shoot for the Stars and make this a successful event.

See all of you Divas at Mid-Winter.

2015 National Convention Awards (Iowa Recipients)

Americanism – Most Outstanding Junior Americanism Program
Gladbrook Unit #127 (Plaque) 3rd District

Dorothy Pearl Americanism Award
Most Outstanding Americanism Youth Program
Gladbrook Unit #127, (Plaque) 3rd District

Americanism Essay – Class III, Central Division
Macie Frambach – Swisher Unit #671 (\$50.00)

Americanism Essay – Class IV, Central Division
Courtnee Milam – Nevada Unit #48 (\$50.00)

Americanism Essay – Class V
Henry Corbin, Central Division – Nevada Unit #48 (\$50.00)

Children & Youth Program – Most Outstanding Program
Karen Pieper, Gladbrook Unit #127 (Plaque) 3rd District

Community Service – Most Outstanding Program
Jackie Westover, Correctionville Unit #79 (Plaque) 9th District

Community Service – Most outstanding Division Program
Dorothy Teslik, Swisher Unit #671 (Certificate) 1st District

Juniors – Best overall Division Junior Activities Program
Gladbrook Unit #127 (Certificate) 3rd District

Military Support Award – Most outstanding overall program serving & supporting military families helping them through deployment(s) and/or injury
Jeanne Paustian, Gladbrook Unit #127 (Certificate) 3rd District

Public Relations – Best published coverage for Junior Community Flag Day Program
Jeanne Paustian, Gladbrook Unit #127 – (Plaque) 3rd District