



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

Auxiliary Communique - Fall 2015

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Junior Auxiliary Camp 2015

Kathy Wilkerson, Jr. Camp Director & Vickie Klinkhammer, Asst. Jr. Camp Director



A special THANK YOU to all of the Districts, Counties, Units and individuals that made a monetary contribution to the 2015 ALA Junior Camp photography and special yarn crafts project! Your generosity allowed us to purchase a single use camera for each Junior camper and develop the film for her to use in putting together her own scrapbook with Department Historian Mary Jo Tillman. Enough specialty yarn was purchased for each camper to learn finger crochet and make their own scarf.

What is the Gold Club?

The Gold Club is an annual giving program which Auxiliary members, friends and family donate \$50.00 or more to become a member. Contributions are distributed at Mid-Winter Conference and used to support the programs of the Auxiliary. If you are not a member, have you considered joining? Gold Club membership is due October 20 of each year. Please send your donation to the Iowa Department Office earmarked "Gold Club." New members receive a special Gold Club pin. Think about joining and helping Auxiliary programs. Thank you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

September 20 - Membership Due in the Department Office

OCTOBER

October 1 - Girls State information will be on website

October 1 - Unit Impact Reports will be on website under forms

October 12 - Columbus Day Observance – Dept HQs Office is closed

October 20 - Gold Club Membership Renewals are due to Dept Office

October 20 - Unit Obligation form and check due to Dept Office

October 20 - Poppy Orders due Dept - NO LATE ORDERS ACCEPTED

NOVEMBER

November 11 - Veterans Day Observance – Dept Hqs Office is closed

November - Membership Rally - To Be Announced

November 26-27 - Thanksgiving – Department HQs Office is closed

DECEMBER

December 1 - Girls State Registration Forms & Check (\$400) from

Units due to Department Office – late checks and applications will not be accepted

December 14 - Membership due to Dept. to be counted at National for January 2016

December 24-25, 2015 – Christmas – Department Office is closed

REMINDER: A deadline is a deadline is a deadline! No exception. Deadlines must be met to Counties, Districts and Department. Thank you in advance for meeting your deadlines!

2014 - 2015 Final District Standings

Place	District	Percentage	Membership
First	Sixth	90.78%	2,580
Second	Ninth	89.57%	3,376
Third	Fifth	89.32%	1,789
Fourth	Fourth	88.68%	3,477
Fifth	First	87.94%	2,543
Sixth	Third	87.87%	3,927
Seventh	Second	87.17%	2,149
Eighth	Seventh	86.13%	2,532
Ninth	Eighth	83.90%	3,376
TOTALS		88.35%	25,494

VA & R - Service to Veterans

"Honoring our Veterans – Past, Present and Future"

Doris Jackson, Department Chairman

Service to Veterans volunteers are ALA members who provide service to veterans, military and their families. This can be done in your home or in your community and all members are able to participate. Just remember it has to take place outside of a VA Medical Center. You can cook, bake, do laundry, baby sit, clip coupons, read, write letters, make tray favors, do yard work, participate in stand downs in your community, and even assisting with veterans' burial and graveside upkeep. There are just so many ways to help our veterans, military and their families.

Remember to keep track of your hours and expenses when doing your volunteer work. The tracking period is from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016 and your hours and expenses must be certified by your units and sent on to the VA&R Service to Veterans Chairman by April 30, 2016. Volunteers will earn "hour bars" when reaching specific hour milestones of 50, 100, 300, 500, and 1000 hours after which time they will earn bars in 1,000 hour increments. These hours are cumulative from year to year so keep working hard at increasing your hours and earning more "bars." Don't forget to include your junior members and keep track of their hours as they can earn "hour bars" also.

We have the Unit VA&R Program Award and Million Member Award so be sure to send me your narratives on what your Unit has been doing for our veterans within your community and in your homes by April 30, 2016. Doris Jackson, 1032 Warbler Ave., Lorimor, Iowa 50149; Phone: 515-468-1274 or E-mail: mrsj@grm.net.

Efforts add quality to veterans' lives



The Sanford Medical Center in Sioux Falls received a grant from the VA to purchase equipment for their recreation therapy department. Requirements of the grant included that Veterans must benefit from the equipment. A partnership between Sanford Medical Center and the Sioux Falls Veterans Affairs Medical Center allows Veterans use of the equipment. Kayaks were purchased that would allow handicapped individuals to enjoy outdoor activities.

The grant only began the project. With funds from the 2014-2015 Ninth District President Leanna Tift's project fund, plus funds from donations to the Department's Sioux Falls VA account, another kayak equipped with many extra features was purchased. Some of the items purchased included a pedestal to hold the paddles, special seating to allow the Veteran to remain upright, and special padding for the seats. Also included was a transfer bench so the patient can move from a wheelchair to the kayak. The wheel carriage to roll the kayak into and out the water was especially appreciated by the staff and volunteers who help with the kayak events.

Thank you to the Units that contributed to this funding of this wonderful project. The Veteran pictured had a smile on his face from the time he sat down, to the time spent on the water, to the time he got out of the kayak. A great day for one of our heroes!