



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

Auxiliary Communique - Spring 2015

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Membership - One in a Million - In It To Win It!

Doris Jackson, Lu Rolfes, Susan Selk
Membership Committee

Iowa, we are running strong in membership! #1 in the Nation! Way to go, Iowa! We now have to dig in and work it to stay on top. As of February 13, 2015 we have reached 83.45% of our target goal. Only 4,821 to make our target goal for membership. Congratulations to 9th District for holding strong and staying #1 in District Standings in the State of Iowa. 4th District has been a close 2nd for most of the winter with 3rd District in 3rd place and 6th District in 4th place.

Awards were handed out at Mid-Winter, all Units reaching their 100% target goal by December 31, 2014 were: Keokuk, Springville, Cedar Falls, Ackley, Clarion, Dougherty, Cresco, Unionville, Mingo, Montezuma, Malcom, Ellston, Lineville, Woodward, Van Meter, Waukee, Des Moines #274, McCallsburg, Liberty Center,

Portsmouth, Gravity, Garner, Whittemore, Cleghorn, Soldier, Hartley, LeMars, Correctionville and Anthon. The drawing was held for the Unit in the state that had achieved the 100% goal by December 31st with Mingo being the \$100.00 winner. We had 1 "One in a Million" recruiter form turned in by Kathy Popp of LeMars. Great Job, Kathy! She will be receiving a \$10.00 gift card.

It is now time for Iowa to stay in the race for "One Million Members by 2019". We are less than 5,000 members from our target goal. You ask "How are we going to achieve this goal?" Well, it's going to take work by our District Presidents, County Presidents and all Unit members in the state. In other words, we (the auxiliary members of Iowa) are not giving up, we are going to remain #1 in the Nation. Our District Presidents were given

a chart to record each Units recruiting efforts weekly, starting with February 21st thru June 30th. Each District has approximately 40 Units, so if each District asks 13 Units each week to recruit 3 new members by recruit-renew-rejoin every 3 weeks, we will attain our goal. For example, 1st District has 11 Counties in its District, so District President Mary Sypherd asks each County President to call 1 Unit in her county to recruit, renew, rejoin 3 new members this week. She will also have to ask 2 of the County Presidents to ask 2 Units instead of 1 to attain the 13 Units, total. Then next week, she will have her County President's contact 13 different Units to attain their recruiting goal of 3 new members for each Unit for that week. The next week the same till you have cycled thru all your Units, at this time you start over with your 1st weeks Units. Now on Saturday

or Sunday of each week the County President will call her District President to report her Units recruits and the District President will let her know which Units she has picked for the coming week to attain new recruits. Each District President calls her Membership Team Leader, Lu, Susan or I to record their number of recruits for the week. All information is then sent to me, I will keep a running total of all Units recruits so the 1st of July, I will know who the top District, County President and Unit is in recruiting. Now there are incentives for achieving this goal but you have to reach at least 80% (429 new members) of your total recruiting goal (536 members) to be considered for this incentive. I start recording your new recruits this weekend thru the end of June. Incentives for the top District, County and Unit will be as follows: Highest recruiting District

President will receive a Special gift from President Diana (a sterling silver bracelet with a heart and hand charm), District will be awarded \$300.00 to District Treasury (this can be used as District chooses), County President will be treated to "Fine Dining" by President Diana and myself and \$100.00 for County Treasury, and the top recruiting Unit will receive \$200.00 for Unit Treasury (this can be used as Unit chooses).

We will also be continuing our incentive of a \$10.00 gift card for all "One of a Million" forms and \$100.00 to any member turning in a "Silver Brigade Form". These forms need to be copied and sent to Jeannie at Department office by July 1st.

Iowa Auxiliary, I have laid out the recruiting plans, it is now in your hands. Let's put our heart into this goal and keep Iowa #1. Remember, we are "IN IT TO WIN IT."

Community Service

Pam Clark, Department Chairman

Many Units have a comprehensive list of Community Service events planned for a productive year of service benefitting Veterans and their families by using our hands and opening our hearts to embrace their needs. Our Auxiliary is well-positioned, due to our history and our reputation, to mobilize our communities in support of Veterans, service members and their families. Cultivating patriotism in your community involves acknowledging our country's military history, saying "thank you" to veterans and service members and supporting with practical and tangible services and events for those who have sacrificed for our freedom. If you're looking for activities that qualify as community service, there is an organized way to go about it.

First assess what needs to be done in your community. Check to make sure that some other organization isn't already addressing this need. Collaborating with the Legion and other organizations in your community, will ensure that you have enough manpower and funding to tackle whatever you decide to organize. Once you have determined what your focus will be, pick a date, find a place to hold your event, make a list of jobs to do, and then fill those jobs with able-bodied community members.

Publicize your event on social media, and in the newspapers. Hang posters in places where they will be seen by your target audience. When participating in any community event, be sure to wear your American Legion Auxiliary pin, logoed shirt, and "Remembering Their Service" buttons. And never miss an opportunity to recruit a new member if the opportunity arises. Some examples of events that could be planned: Walk, Run, and Roll events that raise funding for your activities; job fairs for military families, adopting military families in your communities, Blue Star Salutes, where military families are presented a Blue Star Banner signifying that a loved one is serving in the Armed Forces. Banners are available with up to five stars. If the service member is killed or dies while deployed, a smaller golden star is placed over the blue star. Blue Star Banners can be purchased through Emblem Sales.

Remember Armed Forces Day on the third Saturday in May is coming up. This would be a good time to plan a Blue Star Salute or any other activity honoring service members.

Another project you could work on is collecting items from your community for Buddy Baskets to present to Homeless Veterans, who have been placed in an apartment. Items such as paper towels, bathroom tissue, window cleaner, scrubbing cleaners, dust pan with hand brooms, light bulbs, shower curtains, bath towels, laundry detergent, eating utensils or dishes are all greatly needed by a person moving into an apartment. If possible, try to make the Buddy Basket look as though it is a gift. Use plastic wrap to bundle around the basket and tie a ribbon at the top or add tissue paper and bows to the side of the baskets. Once you have made your final touches, don't forget your welcome home note.

Please remember to write up what you have been doing this year in Community Service and submit your narrative to me. I'm excited to read about what you've been doing in your communities.



Chaplain Earlene's Jottings *A New Year Before Us!*

Christmas celebrations are behind us, New Year celebrations are behind us and we are several weeks into 2015. Did any of you make new resolutions for your life and if so, how are they going?

Did any Iowa Units make new resolutions or goals for 2015? This is a good time of year to set Unit goals or renew some of the old ones from years past. Some goals can be always offering a prayer at the beginning of the meeting, singing a well-known hymn or patriotic song and using President Diana's Scripture at the beginning of your meeting: Proverbs 4:23 (NIV) "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." This scripture can and will set the tone for your meeting. Keep harmony in your meeting. Always have a Memorial Service as part of your Unit meeting to remember a Unit member who has passed and please remember to report the deceased members from your Unit to me for the Memorial Service at Department Convention. I hope to see you there.

The goal of the American Legion Auxiliary is to work for and help our Veterans. Keep that goal (or resolution) at the top of your list of things to do. Don't put our Veterans on a waiting list. God has given us the ability to reach out to those in need and when we join together and share the abilities God has given us, we become stronger and in that strength we are better able to serve those in need, the Veterans and their families. Keep our Veterans, troops, and country in your prayers.

President Dianna's Prayer Book is in need of more poems, prayers, stories and pictures. Please pass the word along and send them to me.

I will leave you with the same thought I left you with in my last article: It is not about me, it is not about you - it's about them; the Veterans, their families, the troops. Working together makes it happen for them.

For God and Country. Blessings to each and every one of you.