



# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

*Auxiliary Communique - Spring 2015*

Page 7

## American Legion of Iowa Auxiliary President



Diana Shaddock  
2014 - 2015

The holidays were the perfect time to gather with Auxiliary members and create many warm memories serving special Veterans. I spent three days volunteering for the Department ALA Gift Shop at the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown, which was well organized by ALA representative Stacy Bane and assisted by many volunteers. Gifts were purchased and carefully displayed on tables for residents to do their holiday shopping. Once a gift was selected, it was passed on to a table where address labels and name tags were prepared. Next, the item was colorfully wrapped and sent to the "shipping" table where gifts were prepared for the postal service. On December 2nd and 3rd, Marge Hatch, a regular IVH volunteer, and I manned the gift cart (See photo below) travelling the halls to those



residents who were unable to come to the recreation hall to select gifts for their family members. December 2nd, Mary Littrell and I were guests of Slater Unit #260 for their Christmas dinner meeting. This small Unit put their heart and hands into hospitality and Unit dedication. I was honored to represent the Department of Iowa American Legion Auxiliary in the Oskaloosa lighted Christmas parade on December 4th. My husband and I attended the Department Christmas Open House on December 5th with Legion Family members. I also enjoy volunteering at the Ottumwa Community Based Outpatient

Clinic on a monthly basis.

January brought temperatures of 7 degrees on my adventure to the Quilted Steeple at Lone Rock with Kathy Wilkerson to attend the ALA Quilts of Valor Retreat (See photo below). Although very cold and



blustery, once inside the beautiful country setting, our spirits settled down to sew for our Veterans. A dedication service on Sunday morning was held, where over 21 quilt tops adorned the sanctuary that were pieced together with heart and hands. Quilting is healing not only for those who receive its warmth, but for the person creating the comfort.

The Legion Family was in full force on January 21, Legislative Day at the Capitol. After a legislative briefing at the Department Office, we gathered at the Capitol to meet and greet Legislators Jan Carlton, A L A Legislative Chairman (See photo at right) prepared a great photo display of members



showing their respect of our flag, brochures, patriotic pencils and flag pens were handed out. We met with state representative Bobby Kaufmann, who shared our respect for the American flag. I was honored to present the department president's pin to Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds.

I attended the January 28th Omaha VAVS meeting with Mary Littrell, VA & R Coordinator and Jean Brown, ALA Associate Representative at the Omaha VA Hospital. We visited the volunteer office where we were introduced to Lavonna Killings, Omaha Volunteer Assistant (See photo at right).

As we all know, Iowa leads the nation in membership renewal. Why? Because we have true mid-western spirit and support our Veterans. We must never become complacent, but energize ourselves



## "Reason for the Mission"

and our members to renew/rejoin/recruit everyone we can. Remember our reason for the mission yesterday, today and tomorrow – our Veterans and continue building our future with members. It all starts with you, here and now.

Those of you, who attended our Mid-Winter Conference in February, THANK YOU. For those of you that were unable to attend, YOU WERE MISSED. In



the midst of winter, we enjoyed the greenery of the courtyard and friendship – a combination that warms your heart. From the joint sessions to individual meetings, we joined together as a Legion family. We especially enjoyed our speaker, Kimberly Neal, Community Resource and Referral Coordinator for the Veterans Administration in Des Moines. She works with homeless Veterans and chairs

the annual Des Moines Homeless Veterans Stand Down held in September. ALA Program Chairman worked tirelessly to prepare for Mid-Winter, first with their Program Fair display and then their creative program presentation. We were honored to host our National American Legion Auxiliary President Janet Jefford and many of you had the opportunity to welcome her to Iowa in the reception line.

Four days later, my husband and I departed Des Moines to attend the 2015 Washington DC Conference. A first-time experience, days filled with a variety of speakers addressing current Veteran issues, national security and legislative matters along with ALA topics of importance. We were humbled to visit the World War II Memorial "that honors 16 million who served in the armed forces of the U.S., and more than 400,000 who died, and all who supported the war effort from home." Many of our Iowa Veterans have participated in the Freedom Flights, including my WWII cousin, Kermit Hotopp.

The month of March and April will find me attending the Foreign Food Fair for the residents of the Iowa Veterans Home, American Legion Birthday dinners in Marshalltown, Traer, and Osage. Also the 5th District Junior Conference in Lorimor, Chickasaw, Benton, Johnson and Fayette County meetings as well as Spring District Conferences and committee meetings.

Annual Report time will be coming in April. I know every member has contributed time and talent in some way for our programs. Please share your story in narrative form to your Unit/County/Department program chairman. Your story (big or small) is important, and you count.

## QUILTS OF VALOR

The American Legion Auxiliary of Iowa will be registering as a partner with the Quilts of Valor Foundation© as a member. Individuals can also register through the Department for \$5.00. Please send your individual \$5 membership fee to the Iowa Department Headquarters, 720 Lyon Street, Des Moines, IA 50309. Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail and Unit name and number.

Benefits of membership include a commemorative lapel pin, access to members area of QOVF.org website via a PIN number, access to special programs including discounts on supplies for Quilts of Valor, access to the network of volunteer longarmers and many other benefits – see Appendix D.1 on the quilts of Valor website <http://www.qovf.org/content/qovf-policies-and-procedures-manual.html>.

As a member you agree to adhere to QOVF's Values and Standards of Excellence as outlined in the QOVF Policies & Procedures Manual when making and awarding QOV's. For more information on membership or in general visit the QOVF website at <http://www.qovf.org/index.html> or contact Ann Rehbein at [amrehbein@msn.com](mailto:amrehbein@msn.com).



## DEADLINES

*Please meet or beat the 2014-2015 deadlines. The Calendar is included in this newspaper,*

*on our website and in the Unit packet you received at your District and/or County Workshops in August 2014.*

*Thank you.*