



# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

## DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

*Auxiliary Communique - Spring 2015*

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### 2014-2015 DEADLINE CHECK LIST FOR UNITS

#### MARCH

**March 15** – National Scholarship Applications due

#### APRIL

**April 1**– Junior Camp fee and application (**\$125.00**) due

**April 30** – 2015-2016 District, County, and Jr Officers forms due

**April 30** – Impact Reports due to County Presidents

*NOTE: All Unit Narrative Reports are to be sent to the appropriate Department Chairman for their reports and awards. These reports must be sent in to the appropriate Chairman by the deadline or they WILL NOT be considered for judging. DO NOT send narratives to the Department Office.*

#### MAY

**May 20** – Department Convention Delegates/Alternates Form, Unit Officer Form, and other material needed to begin the new administrative year mailed to Unit Presidents from the Department Office

**May 25** – Memorial Day, Dept HQs Closed

**May 31-June 5** – Junior Camp, Christian Conf. Ctr, Newton

#### JUNE

**June 1** – Iowa Merit Award applications due to Dept Education Chairman

**June 5** – Dept Jr Convention, Christian Conf. Center, Newton

**June 15** – Poppy Proceeds check and report due Department

**June 15**– National Convention

*Delegates/Alternates/Guests/Hotel forms due to Dept Office*

**June 15** – Top Narratives chosen by Department Chairmen

Due to Department President

**June 15** – Suggested Governing Document changes due

Department Office, Attn: Marlene Valentine

**June 14-19** – Iowa Girls State, ISU, Ames

**June 19** – Girls State Inauguration, Ames

#### JULY

**July 1** – Department Convention Delegates/Alt forms due

**July 1** – 2015-2016 Unit Officers form due

**July 17-19** – Department Convention, Cedar Rapids

Installation of new officers

Please note: Many forms were in the Unit/County/District Packets distributed at Department/District/County Leadership Workshops held in August 2014. Do not call the office if you don't have the proper forms as they were in the packets you should have picked up when attending the appropriate Leadership Workshop. Check out the *ALA Communique* in the center of your Iowa Legionnaire for more valuable Auxiliary information. The *Iowa Legionnaire* and the *ALA Communique* will cover three months. Also check out our website: Programs and form information will be found on the website. All deadlines are firm! [www.ialegion.org/ala](http://www.ialegion.org/ala).

### How is Your VA Money Being Spent?

Do you as a member sometimes wonder if the donations are going to the proper VAMC or IVH? We can assure you that the Department office is very good of getting the money you donate to the proper facilities. At 2015 Mid-Winter Conference the DEC approved these funds to be spent at each of the facilities:

- Omaha - \$1,000 for commercial coffee brewer and \$500 for cookie dough;

- Sioux Falls - \$400 for recreation therapy, \$600 for 200 (30 minute) phone cards, \$796 for a Valentine's luncheon and \$500 (\$1.00) transit tickets;

- Iowa City - \$570.50 for 3 shelf utility cart, \$354 for 2 shopping carts, \$238 for shopping cart with basket and \$340 for \$10.00 gas cards;

- Des Moines - \$1,504 for deluxe poly court, cue, discs and carrier shuffleboard;

- IVH - \$1,800 for 3 electric fireplaces, \$944.93 for Yamaha digital piano with bench for music therapy, \$890 for arts & crafts, \$1,850 for 2 wall mount televisions and over \$6,000 was spent on Gift Shop;

- \$250 for the National President's project;

- \$1,000 to be a sponsor for the National Veterans Golden Games in Omaha, NE in August;

- \$1,000 – Gold Club to be used for the homeless stand downs in Iowa for Department President's project;

- \$1,175 to be spend at Iowa City VAMC in memory of Jane Dinsmore.

The total comes to \$21,712.43. That's amazing because of your donations. The Department of Iowa thanks each and every member that pays their dues!

### Department Historian

Hopefully, when you read this article, Spring will be showing Her warm and sunny face, flowers will start blooming, and the birds will be flying. Speaking of which, TIME is also flying by. Two-thirds of President Diana's year is past, and what a busy eight months it has been.

I hope that those who attended Mid-Winter Conference, enjoyed the many reports of activities, the Program Fair, speeches, presentations, and that wonderful feeling of re-uniting and sharing with the American Legion family.

Much has been happening across the state. However, I'm sorry to say, I haven't received very many of your stories or pictures about what your Unit, County or District has done. Information I have gleaned from Conferences, Communiques' and District Newsletters, tells that you've been very busy. With true-blue heart and helping, loving hands, you've been working for our veterans, military, community and education. So, please send me any and all pictures, articles, and other information of historical value. Thus, I can have a complete story

of President Diana's memorable year for her History Book.

Deadlines are fast approaching. I hope all Senior and Junior Unit and District historians are preparing their history books and scrapbooks. Books are due April 30, EXCEPT the Junior Unit scrapbook-submitted to me at Junior Camp (June 2015).

I also hope to receive many narratives about your Unit's wonderful accomplishments for veterans, military and their families, communities and youth. "How to Write a Unit History" is on-line under "Forms". The Doris Gibbins Award, Certificate of Merit, will be given to the unit with the most outstanding achievement from the narratives I receive. Due April 30th.

Have you written a narrative about a famous ALA member? If so, due May 20th.

Have you recorded a veteran's history? If so, send me a narrative, with news articles, about your unit's record for the Veterans History Project. Due April 30th.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO FOLLOW THE EXACT GUIDELINES FOR THE HISTORY BOOK. EACH YEAR, SOME ENTRIES ARE DISQUALIFIED BECAUSE GUIDELINES WERE NOT FOLLOWED. Guidelines are on-line, under "Forms". At Mid-Winter, I gave each District President copies and had hand-outs to others attending the Programs Fair.

All History Books, Scrapbooks and narratives are due to me, by the stated due date. I will be judging these, preparing awards and forwarding winning entries on to Central Division/National. Please call/email me with any questions or concerns.

MEANWHILE, PLEASE KEEP/START THOSE PICTURES, ARTICLES, WRITE-UPS COMING - TO ME. And remember to identify: WHO-WHAT-WHEN-WHERE.

Thank you and Pres. Diana will be most pleased and grateful, too.

### Poppies: The Flower for All Seasons

Lorna Golson, Poppy Chairman

In the Winter use poppies to decorate for holiday meals and deliver poppy boutonnières to Veterans at Nursing Homes and Hospitals. Winter can be a difficult time for families of veterans or active-duty military personnel. If it is evident they have a financial or medical need use some of your poppy funds to help them.

Spring brings County and District meetings and many ways to use poppies. Junior Conference

allows our young members to participate in the poppy contests. After Conferences are complete it's time to REPORT the ways your Auxiliary used and distributed poppies.

Spring into Summer involve the American Legion family in distributing poppies in your Community and honor our deceased Veterans on Memorial Day with poppy wreaths. Have you heard about the partnership with

Texas Roadhouse? Contact your local restaurant and set a poppy date. Take information to share with customers and poppy pictures for the kids to color.

In the Fall, October is poppy order time and in November Veterans Day ceremonies allow us to honor the men and women who served our Country.

So you can see the poppy is truly a flower for all seasons.

### Americanism

Joyce M. Hopfensperger, Chairman

***"To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation"***

This phrase is a familiar passage from The Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary that is recited at every Auxiliary meeting.

Why do we "inculcate"? Why don't we "remind"? Why don't we "insinuate"?

Have you seen the definition of Inculcate? To instill (an attitude, idea, habit) by persistent instruction. Did you catch that? To be persistent.... who cares if our Unit held a Flag Etiquette class last year....do it again! Present it the same for different people....Do it differently for the same people...

Persistence is the quality of never ceasing, never giving up. If one plan isn't as successful as you thought it would be, tweak it and try again. The message never changes, love and loyalty for God and Country.

People learn in different fashions. Live it, teach it, feel it every day.... Some people follow a good example...be that example. Some people learn by reading or lectures...find a way to find the reading material, find the speaker that will spark the imagination.

Be Persistent! Reread the article 3 more times.....Repetition....another form of Persistence.

Respectively submitted . . . For God and Country.