



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

Auxiliary Communique - Spring 2015

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Junior Camp

The 2015 Junior Camp will be at the Christian Conference Center, Newton. A change this year in hopes of easing parents burden of getting their camper to camp and then on to work is moving the check-in/arrival to Sunday evening. Registration/check-in will be from 6 to 7 pm on Sunday, May 31. The first camp meal will be Monday morning so please make sure your camper has eaten **BEFORE** arriving Sunday evening. Camp will end with the close of Department Junior Convention, Friday, June 5th. Plans currently are for the Junior Convention registration to begin at 10 am with a convene time of 10:30. The Junior Convention should end around 1:30 pm. Of course times are always a moving target and subject to change. Updates will be communicated via the Iowa American Legion Auxiliary website and/or the Iowa American Legion Auxiliary Junior Camp Facebook page.

A photography project is being planned and we are asking for monetary contributions to purchase a disposable camera for each

camper and to defray the cost of developing the film. We are also seeking monetary contributions to purchase special yarn for a craft project. I hope each Unit, County and District will support Junior Camp with a contribution. Of course personal contributions are greatly appreciated too! Please open your hearts and use those helping hands to send your donation directly to Department Office earmarked Iowa Junior Auxiliary Camp (4403).

Camper registration is now available online. The link may be found in the forms section of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Iowa website. After registering online please send the \$125 camp fee directly to Department Office. Camp registration is not complete until the camp fee is received at Department. Cutoff for registration is April 1, 2015. Counselor/staff registration is also available online in the forms section. So get your applications filled out and mark your calendars for a fun week May 31 – June 5, 2015.

Leadership

*Tammy Wright
Leadership Chairman*

I enjoyed Mid-Winter Conference where I think we did things worth writing about and accomplished things worth reading about, hence the wise words to follow from Benjamin Franklin, *"If you would not be forgotten, as soon as you are dead and rotten, either write things worth reading, or do things worth the writing."* Now just to write about what we are accomplishing in our Units, Counties and Districts so I can compile and send on to National for our Department report! Help me to help Iowa and President Diana as we open and utilize our *"Heart and Hands for Veterans"* this year.

Please be a leader and let me hear from you as to what you and your Unit, County and District are doing for leadership before **April 30, 2015**. You can answer these questions and share other things as well: How many of your members participated in trainings? Which ones and what were the topics? Did you hold training on nurturing a culture of goodwill? What else?

See National Leadership Plan of Action at the following link for award information since space is limited in this article: Please contact me by emailing tam4741@aol.com or by mailing information to me at 1521 Seneca Road NW, Swisher, IA 52338-9525.

Gold Club Membership

Are you a Gold Club Member? What is the Gold Club Member you ask? Well let me help explain that to you. The Gold Club membership helps provide support for the programs we support as The American Legion Auxiliary.

The membership starts at just \$50.00 and you can contribute more if you would like. You will receive a special pin and recognition at the Department Convention. You also help decide where the funds will be distributed.

We need suggestions on how to distribute the rest of the funds. Remember it must be a program supported by the American Legion Auxiliary.

The form for membership can be found online. Please submit your suggestions to me by email at eyvore66@fntcs.com or regular mail to Kelly Elliott, PO Box 393, Shellsburg IA 52332. We welcome all suggestions. Please consider joining the Gold Club and help our Veterans and our programs.

Junior Camp Programs

Vickie Klinkhammer, Assistant Camp Director

The calendar for Junior Camp is filled! I would like to thank all the Department Chairmen who volunteered to come and do a presentation with the girls. Many of the presentations will have hands on activities for the girls to get involved with. If you did not speak with me through e-mail or see me at mid-winter and would still like to be a presenter, please let me know ASAP so I can work you into the schedule.

Our programs are very important, too important not to share with our Juniors. It is through us that we guide these young women into being senior members with the knowledge of what our organization is about and that they can make a difference in the life of a veteran. If you feel you or your committee would like to put on a program at Junior Camp, contact me at vickieklinkhammer@outlook.com, cell 563-663-0076, or home, 563-556-2125.

Now that the calendar has been filled with presentations from department committee chairmen, committee members and community speakers, along with recreation, crafts, swimming, hiking, singing, maybe some dancing, a photography in-field study, plus much, much, more, we need you to get your juniors signed up so that we can have a full camp!

If you, as a senior member thinks WOW, this sounds like a fun week, please sign up to be a counselor and you, too, can enjoy this fun-filled, informative week. Please see Camp Director, Kathy Wilkerson's article in this Communique or go to our website for all camp information.

Junior Activities

Donna Flewelling, Department Junior Activities Chairman

What have your Juniors been doing to keep their hands busy this year? The Juniors attending the Mid-winter convention were kept busy on Saturday, Feb. 14, during the Children's Activity Center. Even though the Junior attendance was less than in the past, their hands were busy petting zoo reptiles, frosting cookies for veterans, and singing camp songs at President Diana's meeting. A few even enjoyed the evening entertainment from Nashville as the Junior President Paige and myself found our way to the dance floor for a closer look and even danced with the National President, Janet Jefford.

By now you should be planning your Junior District Conferences. So far I have three dates on my calendar so let me know when your district conference is. If President Paige and my schedule will allow, we hope to see you at your conferences.

There is not a Junior contest handbook this year so be sure to check with the program chairmen for their contest rules. All narratives need to be in by April 30, to the chairmen.

Junior contests are included in Americanism, Chaplain, Children and Youth, Education, History, Leadership, Poppy, Community Service, VA & R, and of course Junior Activities. Send your narratives to me for the best overall unit junior activities award, service not self award, junior member of the year, and the million member award.

Junior Department Convention will be held on Friday, June 5, 2015, at the Newton Christian Conference Center, in Newton, at the close of Junior Camp. Registration and call to order will be held earlier in the morning on Friday so be sure to read the Junior Camp article and check on the Department website for updates.

Department Junior President Paige will be presiding the convention and would like to remind you to bring your Junior History books and Scrapbooks to the convention for judging.

Remember to send photos and clippings to Dept. Junior Historian Gemma Pohlman, 603 - 2nd St. SE, Clarion, Iowa, 50525, e-mail kimpohlman@yahoo.com.

Also send prayers and inspirations to Dept. Junior Chaplain Josie, c/o Doris Jackson, 1032 Warbler Ave., Lorimor, Iowa, 50149, e-mail mrsj@grm.net. I'm sure Josie and Gemma can use our help putting together President Paige's books!

You can contact me at Donna Flewelling, 1241 Hancock Ave, Merville, Iowa, 51039, (712) 873-3066, flewcake@wiatel.net, if you have any questions.

Points From Paige

My time serving as your Department Junior President is going FAST! I have attended meetings when my school schedule has allowed me to, which hasn't been much. Thank you to those that have invited me; sorry I haven't been able to attend.

AWESOME Mid-Winter Conference! I enjoyed the fun day with the Sons of the American Legion; viewing the crocodile and other pets from the Blank Park Zoo and decorating cookies. Sadly, the number of children in attendance was down. It was great to be included in the Auxiliary's meeting and we had FUN singing songs with the ladies Saturday afternoon. Saturday evening entertainment and "dancing" with National President Janet was amazing! If she gets "stuck" in Iowa too long; we'd be glad to have her transfer her membership. Thank you President Diana, Commander Ron and SAL Commander Mike for a wonderful weekend. Shout Out to the office staff as well for all their hard work, thanks!

The Juniors of Iowa have been staying busy helping out their local Units and communities. They have helped with breakfasts, lunches and suppers. Many have made tray favors and other "crafty" item for the Veteran's Centers, had holiday parties, collected pull tabs, are participating in the patch program, and doing what they can when they can.

My projects are going GREAT! I have collected almost 300,000 pull tabs so far, getting closer to my million tabs goal. Thank you to everyone that is pulling. The Juniors continue to work towards earning those patches, support flag etiquette and awareness; all the time enjoying being a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. Be sure to get your Junior campers application completed online and camp fee turned in to the Department Office. I am looking forward to seeing everyone again at camp!

Please be sure to send me an invitation to your Spring District Junior Conferences. Hopefully, I will be able to attend. THANK YOU to all the juniors and their supporters for ALL that you do!!