



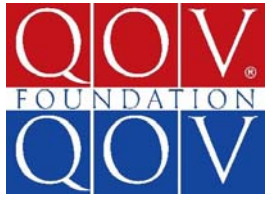
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

Auxiliary Communique - Winter 2016 - 2017

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Quilts of Valor
Quilt Retreat
 January 6-8, 2017 - The
 Quilted Steeple, 2605 90th Ave.
 Lone Rock, Iowa



Membership

Kelly Elliott, Membership Chairman

It is great to see our numbers starting to climb up. Right now Iowa has 26 units at goal...GREAT JOB LADIES!! However, we are still about 1100 members short of where we were last year at this time. We still have several units below 10% membership turned in. Please take a look at the membership report on the Department website to see where your unit is at. We cannot hold on to these memberships. Did you know that National does not consider you renewed until they receive it in their office? Did you know that it would disqualify you for the AEF fund if National does not show your membership as paid? Please make sure your membership chairmen in your unit are sending the membership renewals and new applications into the Department office weekly. That is where they get entered into the National Database.

Are you keeping track of the Over Achievers in your unit that are bringing in

the new members. Remember we are having a contest for the biggest Over Achiever and they will be rewarded at the Department Convention. More details to come on this contest. So make sure to keep track of them. Have you ever thought to give the gift of Membership? We are coming up on Christmas and what a better gift than the gift of Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary.

Remember our membership team is here to assist you with your membership questions and issues. Our information is in the Plan of Action and Blue book. Please never hesitate to let us know what we can do to help you. Also, please email me your success stories. I have a report for National for mid-year. I would love to include your stories in my report. My email address is kellyelli26@gmail.com. Send me your stories. I would also like to share them with our members. So go light that FIRE and bring in those memberships.

Join us for a weekend of fun, fellowship and food, service to veterans, great food, and a stitchin' good time. Oh, and food. Did I mention food and chocolate?

The Quilts of Valor Quilt Retreat will be held at The Quilted Steeple near Lone Rock, Iowa – a beautifully restored former church and parsonage. Learn about it at www.quiltedsteeple.com. Friday noon to Sunday noon we will be surrounded by the peace and tranquility of rural Iowa.

The fee for the retreat is \$125 which includes your spacious sewing area, lodging with five meals (Friday evening to Sunday morning) and beverages. There is an extra refrigerator in the retreat center for guests who want to bring other beverages, snacks or other food. Day retreats for those living close by is \$50 for the weekend and will include your spacious sewing area, the Friday night meal, lunch and dinner on Sat. If you can only come for the day, the cost is \$25.

You need to bring your sewing machine, personal tools, favorite patterns and your own fabric if you wish. Cutting tables, pressing tables, irons, and individual lighting at the tables is provided. Some fabric and patterns will be available due to the generosity of the American Legion Auxiliary members or you can bring your own.

Not a quilter? No problem. If you can stitch a straight line we will get you started quilting! Send in your reservation today – spots will fill up quickly. Contact Ann Rehbein at amrehbein@msn.com for more information.

Quilts of Valor Registration Form – January 6-8, 2017

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

_____ \$125/weekend _____ \$50/weekend-no lodging _____ \$25/ one day

Comments: (Diet restrictions, mobility issues) _____

Send Registration form and fee to: QOV Retreat, American Legion Auxiliary, 720 Lyon Street, Des Moines, IA 50309.

Questions? Contact Ann Rehbein - amrehbein@msn.com or 515-232-9299.

Chaplain's Corner

Mary L. Sebben

Department Auxiliary Chaplain

msebben@aol.com or 515-978-6339



We are well into a new administrative year with Department President Sharon leading us as we carry out her theme "Hearts on Fire for Veterans." As members of the largest women's patriotic service organization, we have the privilege of praying for one another. All of us at one time or another experiencing the same kinds of emotions: fear, sadness, anxiety, grief, health and financial issues, self-doubt, and hopelessness. Women praying for women can be a powerful thing.

The Bible says in Matthew 11:28-30 "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

I have created a prayer chain with the nine district chaplains and the hope is that we can all share our burdens with one another and pray for one another in a spirit of love and concern. When our prayers go up to heaven, we are assured that God will know who is in need of that prayer and will see to her concerns.

Please remember the contests attached to the Chaplain's Plan of Action this year. I am looking forward to reading many inspiring writings from the entries I receive by April 30, 2017. Remember to send me any prayers and inspirations you wish to have included in President Sharon's Book of Prayers and Inspirations as well.

Let's all go into the holiday seasons with hearts full of thanks and love for one another. Let us all pray one for another and for this great organization, our veterans, our military and their families and our great country. If one prayer sent up to Heaven can be powerful, just think how powerful many prayers up to Heaven can be!

Children and Youth

Mary Sypherd, Department Children and Youth Chairman

Good day ladies (and gentlemen), Hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful fall weather.

The American Legion family has so much to offer our children and youth. Our hearts should be on fire to support these programs. As the Auxiliary we have Star spangled kids, girls state/nation, junior camp, GI Josh dog. The Youth Hero & Good Deed awards; If you have these awards to present I would love to come and be a part of your presentation, whether it be at your meeting, a conference, school assembly etc.

Legion programs; 5th grade essay, Oratorical, baseball, junior shooting sports, boys state/nation. And there are several scholarships to apply for.

At the Children and Youth Conference in Indianapolis this past September we were able to hear from some of the Child Welfare Foundation grant recipients about bullying, inappropriate internet activities; NO WHAT YOUR CHILDREN ARE DOING AND DON'T

BE AFRAID TO TELL THEM NO. Take their computers away from them. Too many creeps out there. We heard from "Our Military Kids" helping our military children with extra curricular activities. Our very own National Children & Youth chairman Nicole Clapp did a presentation on the child's table.

Halloween is past & I'm sure several units had parties- don't forget to report & send pics. With the holidays approaching remember the less fortunate. I would like all mid year reports due to me no later than December 9th. As some of you may or may not know - December is a very busy month for Michael & I. And were as we have to report to our central division chairs by their deadlines; we would like to report as much as we can about what Iowa is doing to support the Children and Youth program's.

So warm those hearts up, go out there and support our children; After all they are our fire into the future.

Thank You

Michael, I would like to send a huge thank you to everyone who sent thoughts and prayers during our time of grief. It is great to know we have the support of our Legion family. We are getting by day-to-day. We know our little peanut is in God's hands now and will not have to suffer. Again, thanks from the Sturm & Sypherd families.

Unpaid Unit Obligations Please Pay ASAP

- 1st District: Clarence, Victor, Marengo
- 2nd District: Monticello
- 3rd District: Hubbard, Gilman, Belmond, Goldfield, Dows
- 4th District: New Hampton
- 5th District: Humeston
- 6th District: Bussey, Zearing
- 7th District: Nodaway, Persia, Little Sioux, Malvern, Emerson,
- 8th District: Boone, Dow City, Kiron, Dow City, Britt, Algona, Forest City, Lake Mills Fort Dodge
- 9th District: Akron, Boyden, Sioux City