



# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

## DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

*Auxiliary Communique - Winter 2012/2013*

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### Americanism & Music

Jan Whaley, Department Chairman

Our Iowa Auxiliary members are busy helping other patriotic citizens. We help with boxes to the troops, homecoming banners, parades and helping families of the deployed. We proudly share our Patriotism and wear the color Blue – it truly is good to be an American! We are teaching others about flag etiquette, the Pledge of Allegiance, flag folding and disposal. We have started now to be on the lookout for those Oratorical State Citizens and Flag essay contestants – help and we all win! Don't forget the Americanism contests in the Plan of Action – encourage everyone to enter and then take credit on your year-end report.

“Americanism is the love of America; loyalty to her institutions as the best yet devised by man to secure life, liberty, individual dignity and happiness; and the willingness to defend our country and Flag against all enemies, foreign and domestic.” Please communicate your Americanism

Plans of Action to your members. Look at the calendar and plan your year according to events, special dates, etc. Communicate continually with your Units. Share ideas. Suggest activities. Always remember to include veterans and their families in your activities. Other venues are county fairs and exhibits, school events and election activities.

The ALA is Americanism so Learn It – Teach It to everyone! Remember President Mary's theme: “Saluting Our Flag, Saluting Our Veterans”.

Remember to incorporate Music into your meeting. President Mary has chosen some great songs with “You're A Grand Old Flag”, “Amazing Grace” and “God Bless America”. If you would like the music for these songs, please just email me and I will send them to you. Don't forget to include some of these songs at all of your events. “Music makes you happy, so then everyone is Happy”!

### National Security

Martha Travis, Department Chairman  
marthat@fmtcs.com

I am interested in knowing how many of you are sending coupons to the Military. Please send me a quick note and let me know if you are participating in this program. I would also like to know what you are doing for National Security. Please send me pictures and articles that tell what you are doing. I will need these for my Mid-Winter Report to National

I have a few addresses for the coupons if you would like to use them.

Also there is a website to get addresses:

[www.grocerysavingstips.com/expiredgrocerycoupons.htm](http://www.grocerysavingstips.com/expiredgrocerycoupons.htm)

*On a personal note: Thank you to all who sent me cards, called and said prayers for me during my recent illness. All was very much appreciated.*

#### Germany:

Ramstein Air Base  
Attention Family Services  
Bldg. 1200  
APO AE 09094

#### Guam:

Airman and Family  
Readiness Center  
36 MSS/DPF  
Unit 14001, Box 17  
APO AP 96543

#### Japan:

Airman and Family Readiness  
Unit 5134, Box 80  
18FSS/FSFR  
APOAP06368-5134

If I can be of any help let me know.

### Children and Youth

Pam Clark, Department Chairman

As we near the Christmas season our hearts turn to our families. We can't help but think about our children, our grandchildren, and even our great grandchildren. Our hearts overflow with love for these special little people, and we wonder what can we do for them at Christmas that will really make them happy. Imagine for a moment the emptiness and sadness young people feel facing Christmas without one of their parents, because they were killed while serving their country. Or imagine them spending Christmas just waiting to Skype with a parent who's deployed during Christmas. Now try to imagine what it means to these youth when our American Legion Auxiliary members step up to plan a Christmas party for them or to bring them some special Christmas presents that their widowed parent can't afford. I hope you have enough room in your hearts this Christmas to help a child of a Veteran. It might even be fun to get your children and grandchildren involved, since they might have some toys that they have outgrown from previous Christmases that they could donate. Or maybe they have some coats and mittens that no longer fit, but they have much good use left in them. Please, Auxiliary members, I hope you will do what you can this Christmas to make the life of a child with military parents almost as happy as you will make your own children and grandchildren. Please do it for our Legion family's sake.

For other ways to help our Children and Youth, please refer to the Plan of Action. If you're able to help our youth in some way this year, please remember to report it by April 30<sup>th</sup>. The Child Welfare Foundation can always use donations. These must be sent to department earmarked for the Child Welfare Foundation. Have you contacted your ALA assigned State Facility to find out their needs for Christmas? Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are responsible for supporting the Iowa Juvenile Home State Training School for Girls in Toledo, Iowa. (See Plan of Action for addresses.) Districts 5, 7, 8, and 9 are responsible for the Iowa Training School for Boys at Eldora. Monetary donations must be submitted through Department earmarked for your assigned facility.

Also remember that the American Legion Auxiliary supports ALA Kidds, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America Military Mentors Program, and Operation Military Kids. More information can be found online and in the Plan of Action. And please remember if you have local youth who are deserving of the Youth Hero or the Good Deed Awards please nominate them through Department.

If you have any questions about any of the programs above, please don't hesitate to contact me by email: [pclark@wiatel.net](mailto:pclark@wiatel.net) or by phone: 712-873-3914. Have your merriest Christmas and happiest 2013 ever by Saluting a Veteran by helping their children.

### Angels in Service

National Membership Team Members

The “member since” or join date on 2013 membership cards has been the talk of many Auxiliary members, particularly among those of us who have been members for a number of years. Since continuous years were listed on membership cards for several years, we can understand why some members may be disappointed with the change. However, the 2010-2011 National Executive Committee voted to replace continuous years with member since (join date) effective with the 2013 membership cards. Why?

The Auxiliary member database – ALAMIS – records and reports in “real time,” reflecting the actual number of years a member has already paid dues. When continuous years are pulled for printing on members' cards, the

system cannot falsely inflate the number of years in anticipation of a member paying next year's dues as was done previously.

The American Legion managed Auxiliary membership data between 1992 and May 2010 and because there were some inaccuracies in the data provided for upload into the Auxiliary's database (ALAMIS), some members' cards may have incorrect join dates. For example, anyone who had joined the Auxiliary prior to 1992 was assigned a 1992 join date in the previously used system. Also, the data showed that when a member had a break in service, it wasn't always reflected in continuous years and join date, or would change one but not the other. After importing our data into the new ALAMIS the National staff has since been

working to make corrections.

If a member reports an incorrect “member since” (join) date, please ask her to contact her Unit Membership Chairman. The Unit Membership Chairman will put the correct year on the Unit roster, highlight the year in the category column and send to the Department Office. The information must be in the Department Office by December 31, 2012. **Note:** “Member since” refers to the date a member first paid dues to the Auxiliary. For example, if the national organization receives a new member's dues for the 2013 membership year in September of 2012, she will have all the rights and privileges of membership immediately following the 2012 National Convention and is considered a “member since” 2012.

### Saluting Our Veterans . . . Bobbie Piphon, Department Vice President

“Soaring to New Heights” - is the theme of Auxiliary National President, Peggy Thomas (2012-2013). Our own Department President, Mary Littrell, has chosen “Saluting Our Flag/Saluting Our Veterans” as her theme. In keeping with this trend (and following last year's successful program), we have decided to continue our way of saluting our Veterans who have given us our eligibility to belong to this wonderful organization. So, what we are continuing our power point presentation and asking members who have not already done so, to send in a picture of the Veteran YOU are honoring with your membership.

Please include the Veteran's name, **your** name and **your** city/town of residence. I will be adding these pictures to our slide show that will feature our Veterans and run it during pre-meeting times at Mid-Winter and Department Convention. Email works best with a .jpg photo. My email is [dbpiphon@msn.com](mailto:dbpiphon@msn.com). **The deadline to get your veteran on the slide presentation for Mid-Winter is Friday, January 4, 2013.**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
FROM  
THE AMERICAN  
LEGION  
AUXILIARY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
IOWA**