



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

Auxiliary Communique - Summer 2016

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From the National Auxiliary President

When I was elected your National President, I committed my year to "Keeping the Promise" - the promise each of us made when we chose to become members of The American Legion family . . . To always honor our veterans and military.

In order to keep our promise, we must remain committed to growing and strengthening our American Legion family so that we can be here to serve future generations. We have already taken giant steps in the right direction with the creation and execution of our American Legion of our ALA Centennial Strategic Plan.

When we accomplish the goals outlined in the plan, we will be that much closer to ensuring that The American Legion family can continue to support our troops and veterans for many years to come. That is how we take our promise and turn it into an everyday reality.

My travels as National President have afforded me the opportunity to see these everyday realities - examples of awesome work done by our members every single day.

As you all know, the Auxiliary Emergency Fund helps our eligible

members who have suffered a significant financial setback as the result of an act of nature or other personal crisis. I chose the AEF as my President's Project because when a tornado hit my home state of Illinois not that long ago, I saw firsthand the devastation that a disaster can bring. Unit members helping Unit member is what the Auxiliary Emergency Fund is all about!

I hope your Convention is a time to celebrate all of the work you've done this year in an effort to keep the promises you've made to our veterans and service members. The work you've done as members of The American Legion family has changed lives - I know because I've seen it firsthand. I promise you: Your membership matters.

Enjoy your Department Convention, and take time to celebrate who we are, what we do, and why we matter!

May God bless each of you, may God bless our troops, and may God bless our awesome United States of America.

*Sharon Conatser
2015-2016 National President*

National President Sharon Conatser has set a goal of raising \$232,500 fundraising goal for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Your donation will not only help, but also provide hope to a member in need.

SPECIAL MAILING

The Department Office sent out a mailing to all Unit Presidents. Contents included:

1. Unit Office Form - DUE IN DEPARTMENT OFFICE JULY 1, 2016
2. Call to Convention information
3. Department Convention Delegates/Alternates/Guests

***Forms - DUE IN DEPARTMENT
OFFICE JULY 1, 2016***

Auxiliary Membership Standings

Standing Members/Percentage District

First Place	1,762	81.92%
Second Place	2,476	81.10%
Third Place	3,292	81.06%
Fourth Place	2,830	80.65%
Fifth Place	3,806	80.52%
Sixth Place	2,079	80.36%
Seventh Place	3,350	79.93%
Eighth Place	2,468	79.46%
Ninth Place	2,432	79.19%

Fifth District
Eighth District
Ninth District
Second District
Third District
Seventh District
Fourth District
Sixth District
First District

What is the difference between a Conference and a Convention?

A Conference is any gathering for a stated purpose. Generally, attendees of a conference are there for learning, unless the conference states that business is conducted and who will be empowered to act of vote on the business.

A Convention is a formal gathering of Delegates for the purpose of conducting business that directly affects all members. Delegates are authorized voters representing the Units, Counties Districts they represent.

Counties and Districts have Conferences in the fall and spring. The Department has a Department Mid-Winter in February Conference and a Department Convention in July.

Education

**Jackie Burk
Department Education Chairman**

I am excited to share that two of our Iowa merit award applicants were selected as national winners! Trista Ann Brauer, of the Betnatz Symonds Unit 163, was one of 5 Non Traditional Student national winners who received \$2000 each.

Madison Zahradnek, sponsored by the Charles Polton Unit 427, was one of five national 2nd place winners of a \$3000 Children of Warriors merit award.

Congratulations to these two deserving winners!

Only 25 total merit awards were given in three main categories. Iowa and Texas were the only states that had more than one winner, and many states had none.

A huge thank you to my Unit, Harlow Ray Masee Unit 277, who have graciously helped me with the process of sorting through and passing on the many wonderful narratives, calendars, merit award applications, etc, and especially my mom, Marilyn Sheahan, who has been helping me every step of the way!

You are all doing amazing work! Thank you for sharing it with me and the rest of the department. We have seen so many wonderful projects and ideas that our unit wants to start next year, and I'm sure some of you will too! I hope to share a few of them with you at the Department Convention in July. See you then!

*** * * * * Calendar of Events * * * * ***

JUNE

June 1 - Iowa Merit Award application packets due to the Department Education Chairman Jackie Burk

June 5 - Poppy Proceeds check and report due in the Department Office

June 5-10 - Junior Camp, Christian Conference Center, Newton, IA

June 10 - Department Junior Convention, Christian Conference Center, Newton, IA

June 12-17 - Iowa Girls State at Drake University, Des Moines, IA (note change in location and date)

June 17 - Girls State Inauguration at Drake University, Des Moines, IA

June 15 - National Convention Delegates/Alternates/Guests/Hotel forms due in Department Office

June 15 - Top three top narratives chosen by Department Chairmen due to Department President

June 15 - Suggested Governing Document changes due to Marilyn Block. Copies of suggestions are to be sent to the Department Office attention Marlene Valentine

JULY

July 1 - Department Convention Delegates/Alternates forms due in Department Office

July 1 - 2016-2017 Unit Officers form due in the Department Office

July 14-17 - Department Convention, Coralville, IA - Installation of new officers

2015 - 2016 Obligations

All Units, Counties, and Districts sending in monies for donations, memorials, etc. please note on the check the Unit number or corresponding County or District. Believe it or not there are checks coming in that it is not apparent on the check. To get credit for your Unit properly we need to know this information! Do not staple or tape checks onto any form.

The following are still on our list of not paid obligations as of today. They cannot be a viable Unit if Obligations are not paid and membership not sent in. These obligations were due October 20. Units amounts vary. Questions - call Traci at the Department Office - 515-282-7987. Thank you.

District 2: Wyoming #259

District 3: Eagle Grove #304; Goldfield #370; and Dows #523

District 5: Ellston #541

District 7: Persia #314; Carson #556

District 8: Kiron #383; Dow City #444; and Algona #90

District 9: Sioux City #64