



# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

## Auxiliary Communique - Winter 2016 - 2017

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### 2015-2016 National Award Winners

**Jan Carlton, Iowa Department Chairman**

Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program Certificate by a Department in the Central Division

**Ann Crawford, Iowa Department**

Sioux Falls Veterans Facility Representative, VAVS Perfect Attendance

**Jeanne Paustian, Gladbrook Unit #127**

Best Unit Junior Activities Program Certificate in the Central Division

**Ann Rehbein, Ames Unit #37**

Service to Veterans Volunteer Hours Plaque, Greatest Number of Service to Veterans Hours by a Senior Volunteer in the Central Division

**Mary Sebben, Iowa Department Chairman**

Best Overall VA&R Program, Best Unit Program Plaque in the Central Division

**Correctionville Unit #79, 9<sup>th</sup> District**

Most Outstanding Program Certificate Serving and Supporting Military Families by a Unit in Central Division

**Moville Unit #303, 9<sup>th</sup> District**

Million Member Certificate for working the mission of the VA&R Committee, retained and attracted members to grow membership

**Shenandoah Unit #88, 7<sup>th</sup> District**

Legislative Million Member Certificate, Demonstrating of How Working the Legislative Program Engaged, Retained and Attracted Members to grow Membership by a Unit in Central Division

**Shenandoah Unit #88, 7<sup>th</sup> District**

Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program Certificate by a Unit in Central Division

**Dorothy Teslik, Swisher Unit #671**

Million Member Plaque, Best demonstration of how working the mission of the Education Committee engaged, retained and attracted members to grow membership.

**The Department of Iowa received the following five Certificates of Recognition for Centennial Strategic Plan 4, Strengthen Departments and Units:**

- \* Promoting Effective Media Releases for Units in the Central Division
- \*Developing Effective Training Tools and Resources for Units in the Central Division
- \*Achieving a 10% Increase in Unit Annual Reporting from the Previous Year in the Central Division
- \*Achieving a 10% or More Increase in Unit Member Attendance at Department-Wide Meetings in the Central Division
- \*Amending your Department governing documents to allow your National Executive Committee member to serve longer than a single one-year term, contributing to the organizational effectiveness of the American Legion Auxiliary in the Central Division

## Legislation

**Donna Flewelling, Department Chairman**

The election that made history, 2016. The outcome was totally unpredicted and surprising to many. Voters experienced long lines at the polling sites which they never had seen before. YOUR vote does count and this past election proved it! Many stayed up until wee hours of the morning to see

the results because the race was so close, exciting, a historical event. Be prepared for change, be prepared to contact your Senators and Representatives with questions about the change.

Veterans Day at the Capitol will be January 18, 2017 according to the Iowa

## Americanism

**Jackie Westover, Department Chairman**

defend our country and our Flag against all enemies, foreign and domestic. It means strength, the will and courage to live as free men in a free land." Americanism promotes tolerance and respect of all races, creeds, and religions with courage, respect, and honest integrity. The American Legion family's Americanism program fosters community service, educational growth, religious emphasis, youth development, and responsible citizenship. What does this mean for the American Legion Auxiliary? Simply, put we need to promote Americanism in everything we do.

Over the last several months, the news has been filled with stories how our flag was shown blatant disrespect during the National Anthem. We may disagree with these actions, but as an organization, we are in a position to foster and perpetuate a sense of respect for our flag, our Veterans, and our country. Are you knowledgeable on flag history, etiquette and proper disposal? If you are, then share that knowledge with others. Publish tips in your newspaper, conduct a flag disposal event, or host a flag awareness event in your local school, your post home or at a public function. Encourage everyone to fly their flag everyday not just during the holidays. Promote pocket flags for our military on the front lines.

We educate others by not only talking, but by our positive actions. Be sure to respect the flag at sporting events. You would be surprised at how many people will follow your lead when you remove everything from your hands, remove your hat and place your hand over your heart. Don't ever be afraid to sing the National Anthem. If you lead, others will follow.

Encourage members to vote during any election and to support the amendment to protect the flag. Currently it reads, "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States." We need to also contact our state and federal representatives asking them to continue to support the flag amendment.

The ALA also needs to get behind the American Legion Americanism programs. Volunteer at an American Legion Baseball game. You can help with stats, work the concession stand, or get donations for a team. Support the Junior Shooting Sports by volunteering to keep score or maybe provide transportation.

Let's also not forget the Americanism Essay Contest. Increase participation in the Americanism Essay Contest. Title of Essay: "How does learning about government and our America help you to become a future guardian of the liberties of our country?" Encourage teachers to participate in this by having their students participate in sharing their own writing talents and mind thoughts. The guidelines for the essay contest can be located on page 45-46 of the National Programs Action Plan. All entries must be forwarded to the Iowa Dept Americanism chairman no later than March 15, 2015. Please send to Jackie Westover, 1437 Osceola Ave, Correctionville, IA 51016 or emailed to jwestove@msn.com. Mark all subject lines 2017 Americanism Essay Contest. The winning essays will be forwarded to the Central Division chairman no later than April 15.

Mid year Narratives are due on Dec. 15, 2016. As part of your narrative report, please include answers to the following questions: • How did you promote the Americanism essays contest? • How did units promote the flag program? • How did you promote patriotic holidays? • How did units encourage support of the flag amendment? • Did units support American Legion Americanism programs? How? • How did units promote Americanism in their community?

As American Legion Auxiliary members, let's lead the way to getting patriotism and responsible citizenship on the mind of every American citizen

American Legion website. Legionnaires and other veterans from all across Iowa will gather at the Capitol in Des Moines to speak with their Senators and Representatives about the issues confronting veterans and military members in Iowa. An orientation meeting will be held at the Department Headquarters at 9:00 am that morning. From there, the Legion family members will proceed to the Capitol for a program at 10 a.m. in the Capitol

Rotunda and visit with their legislators. Consider subscribing to the American Legion Legislation "Take Action Alerts" at [www.legion.org/takeaction](http://www.legion.org/takeaction) to receive e-bulletins to support or oppose certain bills in congress. Using this site is a quick and easy way to contact Senators/Representatives about active legislation for our Veterans. The American Legion maintains a fully staffed office in Washington, DC to represent veterans on all legislation

concerning veterans and their families. The Department of Iowa has a Legislative Commission to serve as a "watchdog" on all legislation, federal and state, that affects veterans or the American Legion mandates and programs.

While attending the Legislation day at the capitol, be sure to stop by and visit the vendor tables.

## Central Division Jr. Conference, Columbus, Ohio

**Josie Houseman, Dept. Jr. President**

The Central Division Junior Conference began at 9 am at the Marriott Northwest in Columbus, Ohio. The National Junior Vice President welcomed us. The meeting was interesting and fun. The meeting was about what we do as an organization and learning about different things to help the veterans.

As the meeting is going on, we do activities to get know each other. These girls are from different states. We did not know anything about each other. It was amazing how we can make friends from anywhere we go. One activity I like was the race. The race was about how far could we get to fill up a sock with items in 3 minutes. Then being creative, we made cards for the veterans. There were no dull moments in this meeting. It was great experience to attend. After lunch, the girls went to the Mission Training meeting and sang a camp song. It brought memories from camp. Everyone had smiles and laughter. It brought joy seeing smiles on people's faces.

This was a great day to meet new people and learn new things that I didn't know about. I was so appreciative being part of the Central Division Junior Conference.

## National Mission Training, Columbus, Ohio

**Melissa Houseman, Fifth District Vice President**

The National Mission Training began at 9:00am at the Marriott Northwest in Columbus, Ohio. We were welcomed by the National Vice President. The meeting was very informative about the ALA Mission statement. I learned a lot about each of the Mission Outreach programs and how it will relate to the ALA's Centennial Strategic plan. After we discussed 3 of the programs we would play jeopardy and whoever would get the most points would win a prize. It was discussed how we need to report our hours better, for

everything we do. We went over the National website on the internet and how it can be a great tool to assist us, like ALA 101 which gives us information on the different topics to learn about the ALA and how to build goodwill among members. Also, we discussed different ideas on how we deliver our mission statement. Some examples are supporting community events, funeral lunches, working with our legion and that we must be receptive to our juniors ideas. Also, wearing our brand to promote the ALA but not only wearing

our brand, we make sure it says "supporting our veterans" so the communities can see and understand what it is we do.

We also had quest speakers, 2 Army women, talked about how it is to be in the army today. The juniors joined us for this as well. We were able to ask them questions about the army and how we could better help them as an organization.

It was a great and informational day. I was so appreciative of being able to be apart of the Mission Training.

**POPPY COMMITTEE: Reminder: If you are planning to attend Mid-Winter bring your items for the Poppy Show and Contest: President's Centerpiece: A table arrangement utilizing poppies greenery, ribbon and President Sharon's theme "Hearts On Fire for Veterans." Small Poppy Centerpiece, using 3-9 small or large poppies, greenery or ribbon and President's Sharon's theme. Poppy Hat: Use your imagination and have fun with this one but remember the importance of our poppy. All entries must be identified with your name, address, Unit's name and number, district number and class. All entries must be at the poppy display area at Mid-Winter Conference before 8:30 a.m. Judging will start right after that.**

**Carol Walthart, Department Chairman**