



# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

## DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

### *Auxiliary Communique - Winter 2016 - 2017*

## Auxiliary President Sharon Anderson



Greetings to all Iowa Auxiliary Members. When I was installed on July 17<sup>th</sup> as your Department President in Coralville I

was so proud to serve you this year. We left Coralville on Sunday in the new beautiful red Presidents van, I really did feel like a queen. Drove it home to Altoona and my adventures began. First let's talk about my pins. I hope all of the District Presidents are selling them and sending the money to Martha Foster, don't wait, send the money in each week if you have some. Mention the pins are \$3.00 in your newsletters. It is very important to sell these pins so we can use that money for special projects. We don't want a lot of them left over. I attended the following District's: 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> conferences and enjoyed all the courtesies extended to me and thank you for the gifts and money for my project. I met a lot of new people and renew old friendships. Vice-President Vickie Klinkhammer attended 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> districts. Thank you so much Vickie for filling in for me I really appreciate it. I will try to attend 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> District in the spring as long as they are not on the same day.

On Veteran's Day, Commander Ken and I, and other Department People and Legionnaires attended KIOA Vets for Valor Radiothon, at Prairie Meadows. They wanted to reach \$100,000 and they surpassed it by several thousand. It was rewarding to see how many called in to donate.

Back to my travels, August 2<sup>nd</sup> Commander Ken and I went to Sidney. We toured the Sidney Rodeo Museum very interesting. We both got baseball caps with the year on it. We then went to eat. Good food then off to the rodeo. We all had a great time. Thanks Rosie. August 6<sup>th</sup> we held the Leadership School. Had good attendance. Lunch was served by the ladies of Baldwin Patterson Unit # 274. Thanks. August 14<sup>th</sup> we went to Ames for a reception for National Commander Dale Barnett. Got a chance to visit with him. What a nice man. August 15<sup>th</sup> we were in the State Fair Parade with over 300 yellow shirts walking with the National Commander. He has done this with several departments. August 25<sup>th</sup> we left to go to National Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. Had meetings on Saturday thru Wednesday, September

1<sup>st</sup> with installation of National Officers. On Thursday Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton candidates for President spoke to the assembly. Back home on Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. VAVS Meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am at the Red Cross Building. September 11<sup>th</sup> off to Oskaloosa for dedication of Freedom Rock at 2:00 pm. The rock was beautiful had first raising of the colors had lot of involvement of the community to raise funds and donating their time and money on the extras. You can see it from the street. Looks great. September 15<sup>th</sup> Strategic Planning at Headquarters then off to Story County Meeting in Ames at 7:30pm. Nice meeting and got to visit with friends. September 16<sup>th</sup> We visited Omaha VA and are making a lots of changes going on The Stand down was held in Des Moines that weekend.

September 17<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> District Conference in Bedford, Judy Ring, President. Very nice meeting and banquet. Judy's husband is the 7<sup>th</sup> District Commander and their son belongs to the SAL. September 20<sup>th</sup> Polk County meeting was held at Bellizzi MacRae. My county lots of friends nice meeting. September 24<sup>th</sup> funeral for Dan McClure's wife. Legion and Auxiliary were represented. Very nice service and nice luncheon. September 30<sup>th</sup> tour the Sioux Falls VA. Lots of changes going on. October 1<sup>st</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> District Conference in Sioux Center. Shelly has a very nice meeting and lunch. October 2<sup>nd</sup> I was at Living History Farms for the Wall that Heals. I did the POW/MIA table ceremony. October 7<sup>th</sup> we toured the Des Moines VA. Changes going on there also. October 8<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> District Conference held in Waukee, President, Sue Cline had a nice conference. Again this is my district so was able to visit with friends. October 15<sup>th</sup> was 5<sup>th</sup> District Conference, held in Oskaloosa, Kathy Harding had a well planned conference. Met new people and visited with old friends. Strategic Planning conference call was held on October 17<sup>th</sup>. October 21<sup>st</sup> we toured the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown Always nice to go there and see Louis Kirk and go thru the gift shop and purchase items made by the veterans. They have lots of activities going on for our veterans. Making lots of changes there also. there also. October 20<sup>th</sup> was 4<sup>th</sup> District Conference was held in Decorah, President Karyla McCune conference was done by noon. We broke about 11:00 am had sandwiches and a drink and bid on silent auction items. Back upstairs to finish and adjourn. All reports were printed and could be



picked up when you leave. Nice fire picture she made me. October 27<sup>th</sup> Finance meeting at headquarters. October 28<sup>th</sup> we toured the Iowa City VA. Again lots of changes going on. October 29<sup>th</sup> was 1<sup>st</sup> District conference in Mt. Pleasant. President Verlinda Prior had a good meeting and luncheon. October 30<sup>th</sup> was 8<sup>th</sup> District Conference was held in Gowrie. President Phyllis Warren had a well run meeting. Had a nice luncheon. November 5<sup>th</sup> we held the Girls State Board Meeting. November 12<sup>th</sup> I was invited to a Auxiliary Birthday dinner in Nevada, Had a nice time and good supper. Good to see so many friends and make new ones. October 13<sup>th</sup> we went to a dinner held in Lawler. It was held at the country club with lots of food and the place was packed with Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion. I have not been anywhere that had so many in attendance. They gave away certificates of years of membership had couple of 50 years and 1 60 year member. Lawler has been all time high for over 30 years. Durant has also held all time high for a long time. Its was great to see Vic and Nancy DeSloover. Commander Ken was there also. November 14<sup>th</sup> we were in Eldridge for a Veterans Dinner. Very friendly and had good food. November 16<sup>th</sup> Will be going to Janesville Auxiliary Meeting. November 19<sup>th</sup> will be the Membership Rally and later we will be having the Junior Camp Board Meeting. Conference call with the Strategic Planning Committee on November 21<sup>st</sup>. December 7<sup>th</sup> I will be attending the VAVS meeting at the Red Cross Building. December 8<sup>th</sup> we will be attending a dinner in Maxwell. December 17<sup>th</sup> we will be attending Keokuk for a ceremony in the cemetery and then a soup supper. So I guess that covers what I have been doing until the first of the year 2017.

I want to wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving surrounded by family and lots of good food. I also wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year surrounded by all you love and lots of good food.

I want to thank all my officers, committee people, Marlene, Jeannie and Traci for all you do. Thanks for being part of my year of service as President I am truly thankful. *For God and Country... Sharon Anderson*

## Community Service

Susan Selk, Department Chairman  
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The Community Service program has been a major activity of the American Legion Auxiliary since 1926, resulting in vast number of projects designed to make American communities better places in which to live. Units have opportunities to participate in planned activities or organize and implement their own projects and solicit participation by other organizations or citizens.

### Important dates for the next several months:

- American Education Week (Nov,13-19)
- National Family Volunteer Day (Nov.19)
- Thanksgiving (Nov.24)
- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (Dec. 7)
- Wreaths Across America (Dec 17)
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service (Jan. 16, 2017)
- Valentine's Day (Feb. 14, 2017)
- President's Day (Feb. 20, 2017)

### Ideas for this time of year and other times:

- Volunteer to cook a meal at a church
- Help in a homeless shelter, food bank
- Collect Toys For Tots or children in need in your area
- Supply Christmas Cards to school children for "Holiday for Hero's" program
- Visit Veterans or Seniors at VA's or Nursing Homes
- Participate in "Stand Downs"
- Collect and donate blankets, hats, gloves & quilts to homeless veterans or a shelter
- Collect and donate emergency socks, sweatpants, hats and gloves to a local elementary school
- Participate in parades
- Support Hiring Events for Veterans, Military and Spouses
- Sponsor a "Walk, Run, Roll" event
- Sponsor a Rummage sale to benefit local shelters

Be sure to check out the activities on the National American Legion Auxiliary website [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org) and join the [ALA Community Service Facebook](#) site where you can upload pictures of the events your unit has done. It will make doing a report at the end of the year so easy.

## Leadership

Vickie Klinkhammer, Department Vice President

The Leadership Program through the Department of Iowa and in conjunction with the National Leadership Program is to support goal 3 of the Centennial Strategic Plan, develop leadership at all levels. This can be done as a member, as a unit, county, district, department or at national level.

We need to bring awareness of leadership opportunities to all members. This can be done through How To Sheets and online resources. Our own Iowa website and the National website are good places to start.

How To Sheets include: How to Utilize a Member Data Survey Form; How to be a Good Leader; How to Conduct a Meeting; How to Lead a Small Unit; How to Grow Leadership Capacity, Nurturing a Culture of Goodwill; How to Live a Culture of Goodwill; How to Complete Reports; How to Make Videos for Submission to the ALA YouTube Channel; How to Receive a Shout Out from the National President; How to Take the Innovative Leadership Challenge.

You can find all of these How to Sheets on the National Website under the Leadership Program. Our Iowa website has my Plan of Action with emphasis on How to be a Good Leader. If you know of someone who does not have a computer or access to the Internet, please help them find these resources, a first step towards being a Member Leader! Bring these How to Sheets to a meeting, a step towards being a unit or county leader. The ideas are endless on how you can take the first steps at being a leader in all capacities.

It starts with one baby step and will lead to accomplish goal 3 of the Centennial Strategic Plan, to develop leadership at all levels.

## What is the Gold Club?

*The Gold Club is an annual giving program which Auxiliary members, friends and family donate \$50.00 or more to become a member. Contributions are distributed at Mid-Winter Conference and used to support the programs of the Auxiliary. If you are not a member, have you considered joining? Gold Club membership is due October 20 of each year. Please send your donation to the Iowa Department Office earmarked "Gold Club." New members receive a special Gold Club pin. Think about joining and helping Auxiliary programs. Thank you.*

## Mid-Winter Past President's Luncheon

*This is the 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Past President's luncheon. This is where our "Hearts are on Fire for the Veterans" continue. There are so many memories that we need to share with each other. Come join the fellowship! Who: To all District Presidents; When:*

*Saturday, February 11, 2017; Where: Mid-Winter Luncheon @ Noon; Why: Business meeting to elect officers and a memorial service; Guests: National Central Division Vice President Carollee Junge from Illinois; Department of Iowa President Sharon*

*Anderson; Menu: Roast beef, potato, carrots, salad, French silk pie, roll and beverage; Cost: \$26.00 to Department of Iowa ALA, 720 Lyon Street, Des Moines 50309; Deadline: February 3, 2017 - No exceptions.*

*Linda Sue Mullen, President*