

The Missouri Legionette



Official Publication for the American Legion Auxiliary of Missouri

Volume LXXVI

THE MISSOURI LEGIONETTE

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018

NUMBER 1

President's Message



Department President
Carolyn Sanford
Unit 217, District 7

As I write this article I realize I have reached the halfway point of my term as your president. It has been a very busy time but more importantly an educational time. I have visited several districts and learned about the wonderful activities you are doing to support our veterans, their families and your communities. I hope to visit the remainder of the districts before Department Convention in July.

I had the privilege of accompanying members of the American Legion as they hosted National Commander Denise Rohan and her aide, Mike Rohan. I learned new ways to look at family. As we visited American Legion posts, veteran homes and hospitals, Commander Rohan showed us ways to put family first. A very important idea is that the American Legion is often present when a veteran and their family arrive in a new community. This reminds us how important it is to welcome new families to the community. It is certainly important for us Auxiliary members to remember.

National President Diane Duscheck visited in Missouri mid December. We visited the Cameron Veterans Home, followed by a luncheon at Post 131 in Warrensburg. Duscheck spoke about the progress of her year and more about the importance of her project, the American Legion Foundation. That afternoon we met with the executive director and director of volunteers at the Warrensburg Veterans Home. He gave an excellent overview of the facility and the impact it has to Missouri veterans. Duscheck's visit was completed with a Meet and Greet gathering at Post 21 in Independence. Thank you to all who attended and helped make her visit a success.

Remember to work on our programs. February is Americanism, March is Community Service and April is Children & Youth. If you are unsure what you can do for any program, contact the Department program chair for suggestions. She will be happy to assist you. Watch for deadlines for various programs such as the Americanism Essay and Poppy Poster contests. All end of year reports are due in mid April.

Thank you again for all you do in support of our veterans, their families and our programs.



"WE ARE FAMILY"

Sharon Slagle,
Membership Co-Chairman
Sheridan Mires,
Membership Co-Chairman



The members of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Missouri have been busy working membership around the state. The Department theme this year is "We Are Family." The goal is to strengthen The American Legion Family while working together to support our veterans, our children and promote national defense, protect and promote patriotism.

Thank you to each of you who have already paid your dues. With the holidays and the cold weather some people may have forgotten to pay their dues, so this is your reminder to pay your dues now. The renewal notices from National were to be mailed in January. If you have not received a renewal notice and are waiting on that notice to pay your dues, you need to know you are not required to submit that notice with your dues. The renewal notice printed in the September-October *Legionette* can be used to submit your dues. If you do not know how much your dues are please contact Department Office at (573) 636-9133 for assistance. You may also renew on-line, or by phone; the instructions for using one of these ways to pay your dues was outlined in the September/October *Legionette*.

Several membership goals were set for Units to reach throughout the

year. The Family Reunion: Remembering Pearl Harbor goal was for Units reaching 100 percent of their last year's membership paid into Department by December 7, 2017. The 14 Units that reached this goal were placed in a drawing. The Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah goal is for all Districts who have no "0" Units by March 15, 2018.

The American Legion Birthday. According to the last membership report, there are only seven Districts that have a Unit with no membership paid into Department. There is an award for Departments with no "0" Units by March 17, 2018. Wouldn't it be exciting for the Department of Missouri to reach this goal and be recognized for all your hard work? Division Membership Chairmen, District Presidents and Membership Chairmen please contact those Units and encourage them to submit their membership now. When the membership team contacted some of these Units, their response was "all our members have paid / I have all the checks right here." Ladies, please do not hold the membership. The drawings will be held at Convention.

Working the American Legion Auxiliary programs provides opportunities to meet people. Many times people you meet ask, "What is the American Legion Auxiliary," which gives you a chance to discuss the organization and invite women to join. The key to this is to be prepared by "ALWAYS" carrying applications with you to hand to anyone interested in the organization.



Judith Ann Donati

1964-2017

Department Second Vice President

Judith Ann Weaver-Donati passed on Tuesday, December 12, 2017, at the age of 53. Beloved fiancée of Eric Dwayne Hunter; loving mother of Nicholas (Stephanie) Denig, Valerie (William) Lowry, Kevin Donati and Antonella Donati; loving daughter of Connie and Matthew Borzymowski; cherished grandmother of Sydney, Joshua, Makayla, Chelsea, William, Gunner, Mackenzie, Natalie and Liam.

Judy was an active and loyal member for 11 years of Fort Bellefontaine American Legion Auxiliary Unit 335. She held every office within the Unit. She organized many special projects to keep members active. She would also pick them up for meetings and take them back home.

At the District level she was president for three years. She also served as secretary and held various chairmanships. Currently she was serving as historian and Poppy chairman.

At the Department level she served on several committees and was currently serving on the strategic Planning Committee. She served as chaplain, historian and was currently serving as second vice president and VA&R chairman.

Spring Conference American Legion Auxiliary February 17, 2018 Jefferson City, MO 65101	
Saturday, February 17, 2018 8:30 AM Jefferson Room	
Opening:	Carolyn Sanford, President
Prayer:	Victoria Ornelas, Chaplain
Pledge:	Marsha Mooney, Historian
Preamble:	Sharon Slagle, 1 st Vice President
National Security Program	Cathie Goth Chairman, NEC
American Red Cross	
o What it does in the Community	
o How you Can Help Veterans and Military Families through Red Cross	
Spring Conference 2018 Community Service Project	
• Comfort Kits	
11:00am	
Joint Chaplain's Service	Four Chaplains Service with American Legion
11:30 Dismissal	Carolyn Sanford, President
Lunch Break	Lunch on your own
1:30pm	Joint session with The American Legion STATE ORATORICAL CONTEST
5:00pm	Protestant Service in Lincoln Room
5:15pm	Catholic Service St. Peters Church 216 Broadway, Jefferson City, MO

New Email Address:
Department Education Chairman Jackie Sutor has a new email address. Please make the correction—lsdopey@gmail.com
Thank you.

Secretary's Corner

Nancy Reeves,
Department Secretary


Burr from the Department office!!! It is cold outside. I hope everyone is staying warm and had a Happy New Year.

Spring Conference is just a few weeks away. I am looking forward to seeing everyone since I missed you all at Fall Conference.

A few reminders: When you send your Girls State applications, please make sure you are sending three copies of all required paperwork and a check for \$300 for each girl. When you send your dues, please remember to send the transmittal form when you send the dues, payment sheet.

Unit Data forms and Officers list have been mailed. If your unit president has not received these forms please contact the office. The Unit Data form is the most important form you will receive. This form tells the Department office and the National office who will be receiving membership dues payments from the members in each unit. It also tells us how much the unit is charging for membership dues. The amount you put on the unit data form is the amount reported to National and is on the member's renewal notices they receive. This form is due back to the office by APRIL 20, 2018. Any forms received after the deadline for entering them in the data base will reflect prior year's dues amounts on renewal notices and membership chairman's address will reflect prior year information. When National locks the date in, we will be charged \$30 for any changes that need to be made. I will then turn around and bill the unit for the change. **This is for the 2019 year so remember that dues have increased.** You will pay to the Department \$23 for senior dues and \$4.25 for junior dues. The District officers list is due to Department by June 1, 2018. Again, it is important that this form is returned by due time. National runs reports, renewals and other things. They use whatever data we have entered. If the data is incorrect that reflects on the reports.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Department office if you have any questions.
For God and Country!



Special Event
FOOD NIGHT
Presented by
American Legion Auxiliary
Unit 5
February 17, 2018
Barbecue, Chicken and
Pork Steaks, Slaw, Beans
And Texas Toast
Serving 5-7 p.m.
\$10.00 per person
Country Store Opens - 3 p.m.
American Legion Post 5
1423 Tanner Bridge Rd.
Jefferson City, Mo.
Carryouts will be available

MOVED?

New address _____

Please forward to:
ALA Department Office, 600 Ellis Blvd.
Jefferson City, MO 65101-2204



LUCKY
GAME NIGHT
MISSOURI GIRLS STATE
TRUST BOARD
SPRING CONFERENCE
FUND RAISER
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2018
\$10 ADMISSION AND GAME CARD
\$5 FOR SECOND CARD
15 TOTAL GAMES
50-50 DRAWING AVAILABLE
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE
CHALLENGE YOUR LUCK BY ATTENDING THIS ACTIVITY



COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Joan Vanfossan, Chairman

Published bimonthly by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Missouri, 600 Ellis Blvd., Jefferson City, MO 65101. Publication Number 355-320.

Mrs. Virginia Schnurbusch, Editor 1615 Red Wing Ct. Perryville, MO 63775 Phone: 573-547-6150 Email:visjts@sbcglobal.net

Mail all material for publication to the editor by the 20th of July, September, November, January, March and May.

Mail all address changes and death notices directly to Department Headquarters, 600 Ellis Blvd., Jefferson City, MO 65101.

Second-class postage paid at Jefferson City, Missouri, and additional mailing offices.

Send form 3579 to Department Headquarters, 600 Ellis Blvd., Jefferson City, MO 65101.

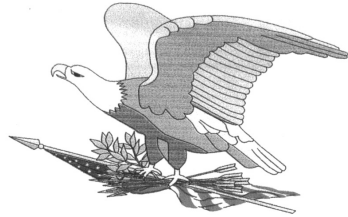
Subscription price is 50 cents per year, paid through membership dues.

Department President — Carolyn Sanford, P.O. Box 893, Warsaw, MO 65355. C: (660) 723-0411, Email: carolyns217@gmail.com

Department Secretary — Nancy Reeves, 600 Ellis Blvd., Jefferson City, MO 65101-1615, (573) 636-9133. Fax: (573) 635-3467.

Email: dptmoala@embarqmail.com.

Chaplain's Corner



Victoria Ornelas, Department Chaplain

We pray that God will guide us one day at a time in the new year. We pray that for each day, God will supply the wisdom and the strength that we need. Amen

I am ... the bright morning star (Rev. 22:16)

These words of the risen Christ correspond with a statement once made by a 19-year-old youth named Abe Lincoln: "I never behold the stars that I do not feel that I am looking into the face of God."

If the sky is clear tonight, let's step outside and look at the stars. Perhaps like Abe Lincoln, we will sense that we are looking into the face of God.

"The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived well."

(Ralph Waldo Emerson)

District 17

Jaretta Holt, President

District 17 has eight units and we meet quarterly at various posts. A social dinner is served prior to the meeting. The Legionnaires typically meet at the same location. I have been visiting units and networking with each of them. Units were encouraged to establish a Welcome Packet for new members.

I would like to express my appreciation to Past District 17 President Jo Lena Shalla for her assistance and guidance in this leadership position.

Units have continued to serve and volunteer at the Mount Vernon Veterans Home and the veterans in nursing homes in their respective communities. Units 306, 434, 639 and 676 each provided fourth quarter reports of their units' participation in community events, hosting food and social fundraisers, and raffles for funds to meet our mission of helping veterans and their families. Unit 434 members have assisted with the Honor Guard.

The units reported donating to the Mt. Vernon Christmas Shop and homeless programs, including Home At Last. Encouragement was given to units to donate to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Units were also encouraged to contact and notify their schools about the Americanism Essay contest, the Poppy Poster contest and Missouri Girls State program. Information about each program was provided to the units. They were also encouraged to utilize the websites and contact information found in the Missouri Legionette for detailed information of programs and services.

Failure is only an opportunity to begin again more intelligently.

(Henry Ford)

Servant Leadership

Gayle Metzinger, National Leadership Committee Member

While the idea of servant leadership goes back over 2,000 years, the modern servant leadership movement was discussed by Robert K. Greenleaf in his essay, The Servant as Leader. It was in that essay that he coined the words "servant-leader" and "servant leadership."

Greenleaf said "the servant-leader is a servant first." By that he meant that the desire to serve, "the servant's heart," is a fundamental characteristic of a servant-leader. It is not about being servile. It is about wanting to help others. In the Auxiliary's mission we promise in the Spirit of Service, not Self, for the Veterans, God and Country. We are servant-leaders as we identify and meet the needs of our service personnel and their families.

Servant leadership is a philosophy and a set of practices that enriches the lives of individuals. It also builds better organizations and ultimately creates a more just and caring world. A servant-leader focuses primarily on the growth and well-being of people and the communities to which they belong. While traditional leadership generally involves the accumulation and exercise of power by one at the top. Servant leadership is different. The servant-leader shares power, puts the needs of others first and helps people develop and perform as highly as possible.

There are major differences between servant leadership and bureaucratic leadership. Servant-leaders do the following:

- Serve followers, help them grow as individuals and cultivate future leaders.
• Value the community, especially its less fortunate members.
• Use commitment as a way to facilitate activities.

In contrast, bureaucratic leadership style includes:

- Facilitating a strict top-down relationship of authority with followers.
• Following a set, easily reproducible structure.
• Managing people who do repetitive tasks.
Characteristics of outstanding servant-leaders include:
• Listening: Listening intently to what others are saying, as well as understanding their meaning.
• Empathy: Understanding people's intentions and perspective.
• Healing: Supporting people emotionally, mentally and physically.
• Self-awareness: Looking inside and being able to be introspective.
• Persuasion: Using influence and persuasion to move mountains and get people willing to cooperate.
• Conceptualization: Visualizing the big picture and being able to move beyond day-to-day realities.
• Foresight: Knowing what will happen in the future by learning from the past.
• Stewardship: Taking responsibility for the action and performance of your members.
• Commitment to team growth: Committing to teaching and training staff and allowing them to learn.

Community building: Building a sense of oneness and wholeness within the Auxiliary.

For many years our message has been "In service, not self" and of course, we are the largest women's service organization in the world. Now we have a name for our management style — Servant leadership.

In a recent survey, employees were asked what they wanted more of in their job. More money? More vacation/sick time? A company car? Surprisingly the answer is recognition. Employees just want to be recognized for their performance. Simple and readily available and does not cost much — a smile, handshake, a pat on the back, a certificate of achievement. The payback is enormous.

Our Unit members need the recognition as well. Working as a volunteer and not dependent on a paycheck means recognition is a necessity in order to retain those members. As a servant-leader, it is your responsibility to know your members and take an interest in them as individuals and recognize their achievements. The more you say, "Good job" the more good jobs will be accomplished. Servant-leaders put the well-being of their members before anything else.

The most important duty of servant leadership is to develop leadership and pride within all levels of our Auxiliary. Every member should feel proud of what

Poppy News

Dr. Cynthia Gray, Department Chairman

"In Flanders Field" by Lt. Col. John McCrae - May 3, 1915

The written form is a rondeau: three stanzas of 5, 3 and 5 lines, two rhymes, and the opening words of the first line as a refrain at the end of the second and third stanzas. To poets, format and rhyme are more important than readability, but readers and listeners need meaning. Because American Legion and Auxiliary members often read this poem in ceremonies, as a poet and teacher myself, I have reformatted the poem for reading with a pause at the end of each line. It must be written in its original format.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow between the crosses, row on row, that mark our place; and in the sky the larks still bravely singing, fly. Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are Dead.

Short days ago we lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, loved, and were loved,

and now we lie in Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:

to you from failing hands we throw the torch;

be yours to hold it high.

If ye break faith with us who die

we shall not sleep,

though poppies grow in Flanders fields.

"Lt. Col. John McCrae presided over the funeral of a fellow Canadian killed in the Second Battle of Ypres, Belgium, where poppies had sprung up from the churned earth. Moira Michaels, attending an annual YMCA Conference, read the poem in a Ladies' Home Journal and quickly penned a response in which she expressed the idea to wear a poppy in honor of the war dead. She showed her poem to gentlemen also attending the conference and shared her idea with them. They gave her money to buy some poppies, and she bought 25 silk poppies at Wanamaker's department store to distribute to conference attendees."

Source: Poppy Program Guide (5/2016)



they do; understand how their job contributes to the overall goals and mission; and feel in some way they too can provide leadership.

What is a good servant-leader? One definition is: "Servant Leadership is the art of leading others to deliberately create a result that wouldn't have happened otherwise."

Others include: "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." — John Quincy Adams "A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way." — John C. Maxwell

The most important facet in our Auxiliary programs are our members. They are volunteers, not hired employees. Servant leadership is necessary to retain volunteers and have them striving for more responsibility.

Those reading this message are servant-leaders as they take the definition to their Units, Districts and Departments. Creating a culture of good will begins with servant leadership. Thank you for all the good you do.

Community Service

Louise Welch, Chairman

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF YOU! As we begin 2018 let us think about our military families. This has been a cold, cold winter with below-zero-degree days and nights. Support churches that are sheltering the homeless. We need to put on our hats, gloves and warm coats to do something for our communities. The shelters need food, bedding and funds to purchase other necessary items.

Donate used books to schools, nursing homes and homeless shelters, clothes to children's homes. Take treats to your local fire and police station because they are the community supporters.

Winter dates to remember: January 15 has passed. I hope you sponsored an activity in your community. February 1 is National Freedom Day. This is a time to Appreciate Freedom, a time to Promote Good Will and Equality. February 14 is Valentine's Day. Take valentine cards to retirement or nursing homes. The residents would love to receive them and enjoy your visit.

Please continue to keep good records for your year-end report. The reports that I received late will be included in my end of year report.

All district and unit end of year reports are due to me no later than April 27, 2018.



Life's Greatest Pieces of Advice

The most destructive habit...Worry

The greatest joy...Giving

The greatest loss...Loss of self-respect

The most satisfying work... Helping others

The ugliest personality trait...Selfishness

The most endangered species...Dedicated leaders

Our greatest natural resource...Our youth

The greatest "shot in the arm"...Encouragement

The greatest problem to overcome...Fear

The most effective sleeping pill...Peace of mind

The most crippling failure disease...Excuses

The most powerful force in life...Love

The most dangerous pariah...A gossiper

The world's most incredible computer...The brain

The worst thing to be without...Hope

The deadliest weapon...The tongue

The two most power-filled words...I can

The greatest asset...Faith

The most worthless emotion...Self-pity SMILE!

The most prized possession...Integrity

The most powerful channel of communication...Prayer

The most contagious spirit...Enthusiasm

The most important thing in life...God

(Author Unknown)

Kindness

How many smiles from day to day

I've missed along my narrow way!

How many kindly words I've lost

What joy has my indifference cost!

This glorious friend that now I know Would have been friendly long ago.

(Unknown)

Renewal of Motion ("Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised In Brief" pg. 62)
Proposed Constitutional Amendment to Elect National Executive Committeewomen
Department Convention 2018.
Informational Sheet

Reasoning as recommended from National (condensed).

Why departments should consider allowing their NEC members to serve longer than a single one-year term.

- Effective governance of a large organization such as ours with a large governing committee, the NEC, whose members serve only one year inherently limits the effectiveness of the organization because lack of continuity provides no opportunity to develop the kind of expertise that comes with experience.
- The effect of this reality is compounded by the fact that our ALA NEC is not empowered to recruit any of its members, eliminating the opportunity to recruit specific expertise such as legal, financial, management, marketing, development, etc. The current system of serving one year on our ALA NEC makes it difficult to build proficiency when those serving on our ALA NEC change committee members every year.
- As of October 13, 2017, twenty-seven (27) departments have voted to elect their NECs for multiple year terms beginning with the 2017-18 year. The more Departments moving to making some provision for their NECs to serve multiple years, the more stable this organization will become and the more experience Departments will gain in the governance of our ALA.
- The recommendation that Departments allow the option for their NEC members to serve longer than a single one-year term is also being made by the team of the ALA Centennial Strategic Plan for Goal 4: Strengthen Departments and Units, Strategy A: Build capacity of all Departments.
- Each Department is a corporation, and the American Legion Auxiliary is a national brand, part of The American Legion brand family. To grow our organization, we must build brand loyalty, strengthen Departments and Units, develop leadership at all levels, and foster good will so that we can grow our membership. The Auxiliary at all levels must operate in proper ways that respect members' rights and build our capacity to deliver our mission. To do that in today's legal and regulatory environment, we must build our governance expertise.

Additional Reasoning:

Within the Department of Missouri, it has been the practice that the out-going President automatically become Missouri's NEC for a one-year term. This is many times considered an honor, an award for the many years this individual has spent seeking Department offices. This is not always the desire of the out-going President to fulfill this obligation but has no graceful way of side stepping this appointment for fear of disappointing mentors and supporters. With electing an individual to this position gives all members in good standing the opportunity to be considered for NEC.

- As to being given the experience as NEC to attend The American Legion's Washington DC Awareness Conference, the American Legion Auxiliary is no longer participating in this Conference as of the 2017-2018 year. The spring NEC meeting, a one-day conference, will now be held in late February in Indianapolis, Indiana, home of our National Headquarters. This change was made as a cost saving effort by our National organization.

- ALA Departments that allow their NEC member to serve longer than a single one-year term = 27.

1. Alaska	10. Massachusetts	19. Rhode Island
2. Colorado	11. Minnesota	20. South Dakota
3. Connecticut	12. Mississippi	21. Texas
4. Delaware	13. New Jersey	22. Vermont
5. Hawaii	14. New Mexico	23. Virginia
6. Iowa	15. New York	24. Washington
7. Idaho	16. North Dakota	25. Washington DC
8. Maine	17. Oregon	26. Wisconsin
9. Maryland	18. Puerto Rico	27. Wyoming

Any questions, please feel free to contact anyone on the Constitution and Bylaws committee.

District 5

Bonnie Sweeney, President

Fifth District is very proud that two of our units have reached 100 percent goal. Unit 189, Robert L. Clore reached their goal of 53 members in December. Unit 596, Raytown Memorial surpassed their goal and have reached 107.15 percent. Excellent job, ladies! These two units set the mark high for all of Fifth District. Let's keep signing up new members and reaching out to the members who have not paid their 2018 dues yet.

Several of our units donated money and goods to the KC VA Christmas Shop and to the KC VA Clothes Closet. Many members also helped in the KC VA Christmas Shop, bringing smiles to the faces of the patients as they visited each room.

Fifth District was pleased to host a "meet and greet" for our National American Legion Auxiliary President, Diane Duscheck Wednesday evening, December 13. This gave many of our members an opportunity to not only meet President Diane, but discuss the Auxiliary's mission and various programs that we support.

Thank you to all of our units for what you do for our veterans and active military personnel. God bless America!

Due Date for March/April Legionette

The material for the March/April issue of THE MISSOURI LEGIONETTE is due by March 20. This issue will include endorsement letters for Department Offices. The program focused for March is COMMUNITY SERVICE and April is CHILDREN & YOUTH. The Editor will be anxiously waiting for articles from other Department Chairmen also. The more information you share with the members, the greater the success the program will be. Please be prompt with your reports and they can be sent early. They should be typed double-spaced for easier editing.

THANK YOU!
Virginia Schnurbusch, Editor

Experience is the name so many people give to mistakes.

(Oscar Wilde)

Children need love, especially when they do not deserve it.

(Harold S. Hailbert)

POPPY REPORT

Dr. Cynthia Ann Gray, Chair

I hope all y'all are prepared for the cold and possible snow!

Reports

I submitted our Department's mid-year Poppy Report on time. Thanks to Districts 2, 4, 8, 9 and 13.

Districts reporting: five (of 16); Units reporting: 11; Total poppies ordered: 10,900; Money received: \$11,517.20; Hours reported: 80 (three units); Participants: 54.

Unit 312, St. Charles, has seven distribution locations, with several in malls. Unit 57, Bucklin, provided Poppy containers at Annual Deer-hunters Luncheon, monthly Post Breakfast, monthly Post Dances and Craft Shows. (EVERY DAY IS POPPY DAY.) Members wore Poppy representation. The local school will again participate in the Poppy Poster Contest. Unit 5, Jefferson City, held a "Poppy Drive" at three store locations. Twenty-four members and two Junior members, wearing Auxiliary shirts and POPPY sash, were aided by a small dog and a 7-foot Poppy! A District Chairman wrote a Poppy Presentation from sources in the Poppy Program and presented for a neighboring community doing a Veterans Day Appreciation Dinner and Program for all veterans, law enforcement and medical emergency workers.

• Deadline for year-end report is May 10 — I originally said May 1 — my deadline is still May 15. Don't wait until after Memorial Day to report.

• National encourages that reports from all committees include stories/narratives, not just numbers. Poppy stories could be about creative poppy projects.

- Send pictures also.
- Email or USPS are both OK.

Reminders

• Since 2017, the Friday before Memorial Day is National Poppy Day. Encourage all Americans to wear a red poppy flower as a symbol to remember the fallen and support the living heroes who have worn our nation's uniform. Emblem Sales has ordering information for a special pin. Let's plan special events for May 26, 2018.

• EVERY DAY IS POPPY DAY. Use every opportunity and local event to spread the Poppy message. Tell "The Poppy Story" when visiting schools for Americanism programs or Girls State meetings.

- If we combine new rules with the creativity of members, we should be really successful in raising funds.
- Involve the entire American Legion Family.

The Poppy Symbol

In 1921 The American Legion Auxiliary adopted the Poppy as its memorial flower, a symbol of freedom and the blood sacrificed by troops in wartime. In 1924, in conjunction with The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary instituted the National Poppy Program to protect the memorial poppy from becoming commercialized by outside interests.

The Poppy symbolically comes from the poem, "In Flanders Field," written by Canadian Lt. Col. John McCrae on May 3, 1915. After witnessing the death of a fellow soldier and friend, McCrae saw the poppies that sprang up in the churned-up earth of newly dug soldiers' graves in Belgium and France.

This is the poem reformatted for the proper meaning when read aloud. Note: When printed (in a program, on a card or website), it should always be in its original rondeau format: three stanzas of 5, 3 and 5 lines, two rhymes and the opening words of the first line as a refrain at the end of the second and third stanzas.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
between the crosses,
row on row, that mark our place;
and in the sky
the larks still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead.

Short days ago we lived, felt dawn,
saw sunset glow, loved, and were loved,
and now we lie in Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
to you from failing hands we throw
the torch;
be yours to hold it high.

If ye break faith with us who die
we shall not sleep,
though poppies grow in Flanders fields.



AMERICANISM

Every American has the priceless heritage of freedom. This privilege provides many choices — one to be a good citizen and do what we can to preserve this heritage. This can be called Americanism, which is part of our daily life; patriotism is love of our country, public spirit and good citizenship. So, what can I tell you that you haven't already heard?

Perhaps we can reflect on topics we know. We can renew our enthusiasm and involvement. Your civic duty is to seize every opportunity to promote flag etiquette, show respect to our leaders, voting, teaching our youth about our country and democracy. Most certainly, honor our veterans and the military currently deployed, serving in all corners of the world.

Our forefathers established our pattern for freedom through hardships and struggles. They formed our way of life. Each generation safeguards our freedom, so that we may live in democracy. It is each citizen's responsibility to uphold and defend these principles of justice, freedom and democracy.

With this responsibility we have an obligation to protect our country because we enjoy our freedom. It takes effort to preserve our democracy because freedom isn't free. Since we are members of this great patriotic American Legion Auxiliary and dedicated to *spread the word*, we need to reflect on ways to participate in the Americanism program.

Since Americanism is a part of our daily life, let's reflect on monthly topics to see how we can accomplish our important and vital task — *spreading the word*.

January — We hear many political speeches about elections and hear debates. We need to listen, form opinions and resolve to strengthen our focus on being a patriotic citizen. Listen to the candidate's promises and decide what can be a reality after election.

February — Has been famous for two popular presidents, Lincoln and Washington. Let these two become an example for our participation in the Americanism program. Valentine's Day reminds us to do our service to the veterans in a loving way and with kindness.

March — Remember the military personnel who are deployed in all corners of the world. Many families are deserving of the Blue Star Banner to indicate a family member is serving our country. The *pocket flag* project is near and dear to our servicemen and -women. It is a small symbol to carry next to their heart, showing that we appreciate their service to our country.

April — This month the focus is Children & Youth activities. This provides the opportunity to provide extra instruction on the proper procedure for the *Pledge of Allegiance* and *national anthem*. You should stand at attention, nothing in your hands and hand over your heart. For some reason this seems too difficult for many. You accept this challenge and continue to instruct this procedure when you can. County government provides first-hand involvement in government and greet the county officials. Encourage the instructor to hold a mock election for the positions and write an essay why they want to participate and what do they hope to obtain from the experience.

May — Poppies are generally distributed during this month. Explain the significance of the little red paper flower. Educate the youth about veterans and how thankful we are because they served our country. Collect flags and have an Avenue of Flags. This is an awesome sight to be displayed on certain holidays. Don't forget Memorial Day. This holiday honors those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country so that we may continue to live in freedom. Encourage schools to have assemblies honoring veterans. They can share their experiences. Perhaps your community can celebrate this holiday with a parade or other activities that are suitable for your community.

June — Attending local summer sports events provides an excellent opportunity to show proper respect to our flag. While you are watching your grandchildren or neighbors play at a game, do what you can to instill a patriotic atmosphere. Flag Day is another day for emphasis. Do you participate in the Girls State/Boys State program? This is another opportunity to learn about government by participation.

July — July 4th is the significant holiday, Independence Day. Our forefathers struggled to gain our independence and draft the Constitution. I doubt they wanted any part of our democracy abused or changed. It is up to you to help preserve our ideals.

August — Perhaps you can find a way to promote scouting. Many of the youth will be going to campouts during the summer. You can be a positive influence on their patriotic attitude. The Scouts can work on patriotic badges. They can collect old worn flags and have a flag burning ceremony. Invite a troop to your meeting or sponsor a troop.

September — You can check the schools and make sure each classroom has an American flag. It is never too late to encourage participation in the Oratorical contest. This program takes long-range planning and preparation to speak about the Constitution; therefore, start early.

October — Education is the program to focus on this month. The National Program Plan gives several suggestions for participation. You can be creative. Promote the Americanism Essay Contest that is self-expression on a patriotic topic. Purchase comic books that are a pictorial version of Americanism.

November — This is the time we hear about elections and voting. It is essential for us to exercise the right to vote as established by our forefathers. Explain the significance and importance of Veterans Day to everyone. This is a good time for schools to have a patriotic program honoring veterans. You can help organize the program.

December — As you cruise around your community admiring the beautiful Christmas decorations, check for worn-torn flags flying at businesses. Find the manager and remind him/her of the torn flag. As a unit project you can purchase new flags. In larger communities you can participate in the Citizenship program where we have people who want to become an American citizen.

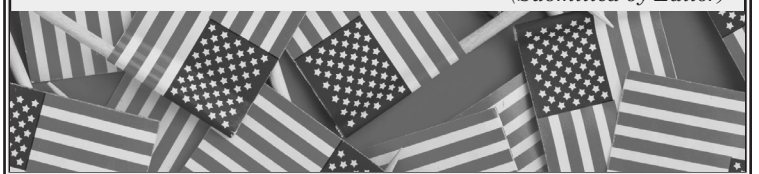
These are merely suggestions that you might try. Please approach your contacts politely and be prepared to explain the purpose of your visit. If you already participate in some of these activities, expand your participation and function with renewed enthusiasm. Encourage new members to participate. Ask for suggestions on how to improve your activities. Hopefully your long time members will be ready and eager to help. Combine the new and old ideas because our patriotic work is never finished.

We should be alert to the dangers to our freedom in our country. Patriotism is taking responsibility seriously by being informed and helping educate others. Make it catching like a virus.

We are compassionate people. Don't you feel thrilled when you hear our *national anthem* or any patriotic song? "*America the Beautiful*" gives me a picture of all the blessings we have inherited. It is thrilling to see the United States flag raised and lowered as citizens are showing respect the proper way. We need to educate Americans on this concept. Our freedom so often is taken for granted. It seems so few want to do more to keep alive the spirit of democracy. Encourage students to be familiar with the National monuments in Washington, D.C. Suggest this as a family vacation. The awesome monuments make history come to life. The changing of the Guard at the National Cemetery at the Tomb of the Unknown shows us how important all the military personnel are. They gave their life while serving our country. The vigilance is continuous.

Being an American Legion Auxiliary member shows we are proud to be an American. Let's stand up and be counted.

(Submitted by Editor)



AROUND THE STATE



Unit 114 Junior members were busy before Christmas. They delivered 150 stuffed animals to the Sikeston Public Safety Department. These are for comforting children in crisis situations. Afterwards they delivered hygiene items, snacks and drinks to the Boys Home in Cape Girardeau. Good job Unit 114 Junior members.



Ladies of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 434 visited the veterans at the Missouri Veterans Home in Mount Vernon Mo., on November 18, 2017, bearing lots of gifts as part of their Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program. From left are Judi Black, Cheryl Andrews, Karen Kennel, Clara Adams, Michealene "Mike" Smith, Jaretta Holt and Julie White. Picture provided by Mike Smith. Follow us on www.facebook.com at American Legion Nixa Auxiliary Post 434.



LEGION & AUXILIARY SERVES THE NATIONAL GUARD

On Sunday, December 10, 2017, members of the Callao American Legion #360 Argonne Memorial Post and Auxiliary cooked and served an afternoon brunch to the 1438th National Guard Engineer Company of Macon after a weekend of training. Over 150 soldiers and their families enjoyed scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits, gravy, pancakes, fruit rolls and drinks.

At this family day event a special guest was Santa paying a visit to the children. The Auxiliary Unit contributed 60 coloring books and crayons to Santa's gifts to the children.

Members helping were Calvin Vose, SAL Chaplain, Melanie Vose, Lisa Pogue, Steve Rich, Post Adjutant, Linda Maddox, Unit President, & Bob Maddox, Post Commander.



On December 4 members of Districts 1 and 9 volunteered at the Mexico Veterans Home Gift Shop. They wrapped gifts for 150 resident veterans for the family members at home. Auxiliary units in the districts donated items for this annual event to make Christmas a more enjoyable season for the veterans and their families.

Pictured left to right: Rhonda Dodd, Unit 174 President; Diane Houk; Loretta Yutz, CeCe Spink and Linda Maddox, District 1 & Unit 360 President; Past Department President Barb Sheets; Department President Carolyn Sanford; Victoria Ornelas, Department Chaplain; Nancy Ivan, Dixie Carlson, Margot Reynolds, Maxine Haynes and Diane Anselm, all of Unit 323. Good job!



Pictured is the group of volunteers who worked at the St. Louis Veterans Home Gift Shop on December 8. Front, left, is Rosemarie Hauck, the VA Representative for the home. Thank you for the hard work.



Department President Carolyn Sanford, American Legion Auxiliary NEC Cathie Goth, National President Diane Duscheck, and (partially hidden) American Legion NEC Kenneth Goth attended the luncheon at Post 131 in Warrensburg. President Duscheck is from Wisconsin. She enjoyed her Midwest visit.



Unit 5 members who attended the luncheon honoring National President were Christie Scheps, Connie Pack, District 8 President, National President Diane Duscheck, Past Department President Claudia Goodin and Rosemarie Nichols.



NATIONAL PRESIDENT VISIT

Brad Haggard, Cameron Veterans Home Administrator, greeted and gave a 45-minute tour of the Home to National American Legion Auxiliary President Diane Duscheck, who is from Markesan, Wisconsin.

National President Duscheck was accompanied around the Missouri Heartland by Missouri American Legion Auxiliary President Carolyn Sanford, Missouri National Executive Committeewoman Cathie Goth, Missouri Distinguished Guest Chairman Lori Millam and Mary Harper. Mary Harper's husband was the group's escort driver.

Sharon Slagle, Missouri American Legion Auxiliary First Vice-President, Wilma Jobson, Cameron Veterans Home, Representative for Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, and Rosie Rhodes, District 2, American Legion Auxiliary President, met the group at Cameron Veterans Home and took the tour also and met NALA President Duscheck.

After the tour NALA President and her companions were en route to Warrensburg Veterans Home for lunch.

Pictured from left to right: Rosie Rhodes, District 2 American Legion Auxiliary President; Diane Duscheck, National American Legion Auxiliary President; and Wilma Jobson, Cameron Veterans Home Representative.



The John J. Perishing Hospital Gift Shop was assisted by auxiliary members from Units 153 & 643. The volunteers in the front row: Anita Guard, female veteran hospital patient, and Linda Murphy. Back row: Betty Gilmore, Hospital Representative, Juanita Duggar, Shelia Wheeler, Department President Carolyn Sanford and Lorey Gholson. Thank you for caring.

Deceased Members

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2017

District	Unit	Name	Location
2	365	Judith E. Shinafelt	Green City, MO
2	477	Darlene Leivick	Mercer, MO
2	551	Sally Anderson	Carrrollton, MO
3	58	Nona R. Steinbrink	Kansas City, MO
3	169	Margie Bradford	Cameron, MO
3	237	Vivian L. Kennedy	Independence, MO
3	237	Loretta Pauley	Camden, MO
3	285	M. J. Smith	Gallatin, MO
4	199	Rosalie Woodring	Tarkio, MO
5	21	Dorothy Van Hoy	Independence, MO
7	217	Evelyn Cureton	Sedalia, MO
7	279	Violet Trautman	Sweet Springs, MO
7	305	Dorothy Wilkens	St. Louis, MO
9	198	Dorothy Brack	New Florence, MO
10	335	Judith A. Donati	Saint Charles, MO
10	338	Mary Smith	Saint Louis, MO
10	338	Donna L. Essenpreis	Gillespie, IL
13	39	Yvonne A. Dreimeier	Bismarck, MO
13	133	Margie A. Leine	Daisy, MO
13	150	Mary A. Otto	Sainte Genevieve, MO
14	63	Margaret A. Kinder	Oran, MO
14	63	Hester M. Gray	Cape Girardeau, MO
14	114	Audrey Beck	Sikeston, MO
14	114	Edie C. Stroud	Sikeston, MO
14	114	Annabel R. Connors	Sikeston, MO
14	153	Virginia Guard	Williamsville, MO
15	322	Esther L. Giffen	Joplin, MO
15	372	June N Cross	Lockwood, MO
16	30	Kathryn Coffman	Mountain Grove, MO

Calendar of Activities

- February 12** Lincoln Pilgrimage; Springfield, IL
- February 16-18** Spring Conference; Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, 573-635-1234
- May 8** Truman Pilgrimage; Independence, MO
- June 24-30** Girls State; UCM, Warrensburg, MO
- July 12-15** Department Convention; Ramada Oasis, Springfield, MO
- August 24-30** National Convention; Minneapolis, MN
- October 26-28** Fall Conference; Capitol Plaza Hotel; Jefferson City, MO

District Meetings

- District 2** April 7; Trenton Post #31
- District 5** February 21; Hostess Unit #596; Americanism
March 21; Hostess Unit #499; Community Service
- District 6** January 14; Warrensburg Post #131
- District 7** April 8; Slater Post #78; 2:00 p.m.
- District 8** April 8; Freeburg Post 317; 1:00 p.m.
- District 9** June 3; New Haven Post #366 registration 9:00; meeting 9:30; lunch; joint session after lunch
- District 13** March 11; Ste. Genevieve Post #150; 2:00 p.m.
- District 14** May 13; Sikeston Post #114; election time.
- District 15** March 11; Mt. Vernon Post #137; 2:00 p.m.