



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

Auxiliary Communique - Winter 2017-2018



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Auxiliary President Vickie Klinkhammer



It's an old cliché that time flies when you are having fun, but in my case, it is very true! It seems like only yesterday that I was installed as your Department of Iowa Auxiliary President. Many

Past Department Presidents have told me, "Enjoy your time, it will go fast!" So far, this has proven very true with every step I have taken, but it has been memorable.

This year, National has been emphasizing Family. I would say Iowa is taking this to heart. Commander Mike Etzel and myself have been traveling together across this great state attending District Conferences, touring VA Facilities, Quilts of Valor Presentations and even a Gold Star Hall Ceremony at Iowa State University, which honors those students who attended Iowa State, then lost their lives in service to our country. Each year, a few more are honored and their names added to the wall under their years of service. This year's honorees were from World War II and Vietnam. My other traveling companions this year has been my Department Historian and my daughter, Alice Greenwood. The three of us have been able to bounce ideas off of one another when it comes to making the Legion and Auxiliary stronger, more unified front, which would also include the SAL, Legion Riders, and our Juniors. It will take all of us to work together to make Iowa be a goal state, plus help National reach their goal.

I was able to attend 2nd, 4th, 6th & 8th District Conferences this fall. I was very impressed with the District Presidents that were chosen to lead their districts this year and look forward to seeing more District Presidents in action this spring. Attending the Creative Arts Festival in Buffalo, New York was quite a highlight for me. Department Vice President, Mary Sebben, Department Historian, Alice Greenwood, and VA&R Chairman, Pam Clark, accompanied me. We learned what would be needed to host the 2018 Festival which will be held in Des Moines, Iowa, October 29 - November 5, 2018. What an honor for Iowa and how thrilling it is going to be to host this festival! It is also going to be a lot of work and Auxiliary Members will be needed to make this event a success. This trip wasn't all work, however. When it comes to life, we must find time to stop, look around, have a

little fun, and take in some of Mother Nature's great beauty. A trip to Niagara Falls was a must. Unbelievable to me, I was the only one who had never seen the Falls before. It was an adventure I will never forget and one that I will cherish always. With the return home from Buffalo, I have been spending my time visiting units that have requested me to come and visit. I have so enjoyed meeting new people, seeing old friends, and visiting with other Auxiliary Members. If you want me to come visit your unit or county meeting, send me an official visit form, give more than one option time for me to come, and I will do my best to accommodate.

My new pins arrived in time for District Conferences that started the beginning of October. If you have an old pin, please turn it in and you will be given a new one. My pins will be available at Mid-Winter so if you haven't gotten one, that will be the time to pick one up or do your exchange. Speaking of Mid-Winter, it won't be long and February 9 - 11, 2018 will be upon us. I hope many of you will attend as we are going to have FUN! Remember to bring your pocket book as we will once again have Diva Days, with monies to go to the AEF. I will have my horse, Shadowfax with me. This will be a picture taking moment so wear your Derbies, your jockey pants, or silk scarf to win the race. What race you ask? Well, the race in Membership that will lead us to be a goal state! Not place or show, but win the Triple Crown! We can do it, and we can also win \$500.00 from National with NO Goose Eggs by March 17, 2018. We missed out on the \$1000.00, but surely we can win the \$500.00! Get those memberships in, don't hold them back. Each unit must have at least one membership turned in to be able to receive the NO Goose Egg Award. If you have any questions in regard to membership, talk with my team, Judy Neal, Lorna Golson or Mary Sypher.

Please continue to donate to my projects, The Veterans Creative Arts and Retrieving Freedom. We are off and running, not galloping, with donations. If you want to indicate which project the funds are to go to, please specify in the memo line or just put for President's Project and both will benefit. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support, not only for my projects, but also for myself as I continue to lead this great organization that cares for our veterans and active duty military.

"America Runs Free Because of Those Who Served Our Country"

Americanism and Music

Sue Schlitter

Americanism and Music Chair

This year's essay theme is very thought-provoking... it is "What Can I Personally Do To Promote Americanism In My School or Community?" Hmmmm...what comes to mind first? Whatever it is, write it down! New this year is a Senior Member essay contest. 450-500 words, due by January 5. Send them to the National Americanism Chair Martha Corriher at ncusa1993@hotmail.com. Please copy me on it too, and I can keep track of entries. Send to suehonda@iowatelecom.net.

The same topic will be used for the annual essay contest. Start getting information out to schools, Girl and Boy Scout troops, after-school programs, former Girls and Boys State citizens, SAL and Junior Auxiliary members. The rules are in the Plan of Action.

January 5 is also when mid-year reports need to be in. Take a few minutes (which I know is hard during the holidays) to jot down what your Units have been doing to promote Americanism in your communities. Email your activities to me using the address above. Do you have ideas that work for you that you'd like to share with others? Let me know! I would be happy to pass them along.

Now, more than ever, we need to support our country, our flag, and our Veterans. Keep track of the flag protection bill and the Legion family's work. Wear your Auxiliary pin or a flag pin wherever you go. Fly our flag! Not only on designated holidays, but every day. Stand tall, salute the flag, and sing our National Anthem proud and loud. Let's keep that American pride going strong!

Membership Chairman 2017-2018 Judy Neal

Every one of you has worked very hard to try and achieve the goal of "No Goose Eggs" by October 31st. Unfortunately, it did not come to pass. 4th District with Mary Mooberry had no "Goose Eggs". Yeah! However, Districts 1, 2 and 6 were only one unit short of having no Goose Eggs. The rest of you were also very close.

Our next chance to win some money for our Veterans, Active Duty Military and their Families will be March 31, 2018. If we have "No Goose Eggs" then we will receive \$500.00 for our "Pot "O" Gold".

Vickie has challenged us to have 100% of all Membership also turned into National by February 18, 2018 to win the "Triple Crown". Prize to be announced at Mid-Winter.

Membership isn't something that can be accomplished in one day, but it can be by taking it one day at a time. Nor as you know is it accomplished by just one person, it is through team work that we can meet our Membership Goals. Your Membership Team of Lorna Golson, Mary Sypher and myself are here to help you make those goals.