



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

Auxiliary Communique - Fall 2017

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Victory Garden Completed At the Des Moines VAMC

Mary L. Sebben
ALA Representative
Des Moines VAMC

On Tuesday, July 25, 2017, the Victory Garden, completed by the veterans from the Des Moines VAMC, was recognized by a wonderful celebration of staff, donors and visitors present.

Laura Kendrick with Voluntary Services hosted the event with refreshments provided after the ceremony. It was a pleasure to have attended along with Past Department President Sharon Anderson. The Honor Guard was provided by the Baldwin-Patterson Post.

This is a project that some of the units may have donated tools and other items to for the purpose of growing and maintaining the beautiful garden. If any of you are ever at the Des Moines VAMC, please be sure to go visit the Victory Garden located in front of Building 6M next to the Domiciliary.



Sticks Project: Table

The donation of \$1,000 from the Finance Committee last Mid-Winter has produced results. I am showing one of the finished projects, the round table which provides interactive features for the veterans staying at the Des Moines VAMC CLCI unit. Thank you everyone for your support for this project.

American Legion of Iowa Foundation approves grant

This past year it was my pleasure to apply for a grant to fund school bags and supplies for the homeless children of veterans as well as children of local homeless citizens who visit the annual Des Moines Stand Down located on the grounds of the State Capital. It was a VA&R/Community Service project. It was exciting to find out that The American Legion Foundation approved the grant for \$2,000.

At the Department Convention I was pleased to receive the check from the Foundation Chairman David Rehbein. The American Legion of Iowa Foundation was incorporated on November 29, 1978, as the charitable entity of the Iowa Department of The American Legion. Its purpose is to provide financial assistance to promote Americanism, youth programs, veterans' rehabilitation and community service in the State of Iowa. Since its incorporation, the Foundation has contributed over \$1.4 million in support of these programs and services.

It was with much appreciation that I accepted this grant money from The American Legion of Iowa Foundation on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary. Thank you American Legion Foundation for the wonderful service you provide to our veterans, our youth and communities.



Membership

Judy Neal, Department Membership Chairman

Your 2017-2018 Membership "trotted" down the aisle at Department Convention in Des Moines. We had a lot of fun horsing around. We want to make it not only a fun year, but a rewarding year for everyone all around.

There will be some horse racing going on, for example I am sure many of you have heard of the "Triple Crown". Mary Sypherd will jockey for Districts 1, 5 & 6 and will host the Kentucky Derby. Lorna Golson will jockey for Districts 2, 3 & 4 and will host the Preakness Stakes. Judy Neal will jockey Districts 7, 8 & 9 and I will host the Belmont Stakes. Will you be our owners and give us the very best you can to Win the race of Membership? We look forward to working with you this next year and being in the Winners Circle.

For National the "All Treats no Tricks Award" and "All YA Gotta Do" is have "No Goose Eggs by October 31st". Each Unit within the State/Department has at least one membership that has been received by National Headquarters by October 31, 2017. If that Department has met that goal they will receive \$1,000, how easy is that?

Unity Award . . .

The Department of Iowa Unity Membership Award is won by the District whose combined American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion membership is the highest percentage of their total membership goal on the date of the Fall Membership Rally.

The award is presented to the American Legion District Commander, American Legion Auxiliary District President and Sons of The American Legion District Adviser of the winning District. The award is announced at the Membership Rally and is presented at the Department Midwinter Conference during the joint session of the conference.

Ann Rehbein, brought this up recently and in talking with various Auxiliary, Legion and SAL Members there weren't aware of this award. So once again I would like to pass this on to as many people as possible. The last time 6th District won was the year Steve was 6th District Commander and Frances Kruse was 6th District President.

Reminder . . .

Dues have raised you must send in \$17.00 per senior and \$3.00 per junior. Please complete transmittal and highlight the members you are paying for. If you have changes of address, name or deceased you can mark them on the roster as well. If you have any questions you can call me at 515-282-7987 Ask for Jeannie McKeever.

Leadership

Kelly Elliott, Department Chairman

Some of you got to meet Mentor Woman at the leadership workshop. She wants to help build Leadership in our Units, Counties, Districts and Department. This year I would like to see more Mentors come forward and help other members become better Leaders. Teach the newer members about our Programs and Policies. Explain why we have the policies we have and how we run a meeting.

A good Mentor will listen to their mentoree and answer any questions they may have. Sit with members at your meeting and explain the meeting to them. Tell them about all the wonderful programs we have. Tell them about some of your experiences. Draw them in with your stories. Be the reason they want to come back for the next meeting. Listen to their ideas and try some new ways of doing things. You might just find an easier or more efficient way to complete some of the tasks that need done. Maybe get some new ideas to bring new members in and keep members renewing.

Remember Goal 3 of the Centennial Plan is Develop leaders at all levels. So follow Mentor Woman's lead and become a Mentor. Together we can help build better leadership at all levels.