



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

Auxiliary Communique - Fall 2017

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Chaplain's Corner

Doris Jackson, Department Auxiliary Chaplain
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President Vickie's verses in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 tells us we have a time to live; we have a time to laugh; we have a time to dance; and we have a time to cry. And, I would like to point out, we have a time to love our military as they go to war; a time to embrace them; a time to sew for our veterans; a time to speak out for them; a time to pray for our peace and safety and a time to mourn our veteran when they pass.

Each month during the 2017 – 2018 year let us act upon God's wishes and tend to our military, their families or our veterans.

August: A time to "Walk for Veterans"

September: A time to "Help our homeless Veterans"

October: A time to "Give 10 to Education"

November: A time to "Give thanks to our Veterans by doing something for them"

December: A time to "Help a Military Family or Veterans Family thru the Holidays"

January: A time to "Attend Legislative Day"

February: A time to sew a Quilt of Valor for our veterans and military

March: A time to volunteer or donate to "Junior Camp or Girls State"

April: A time to "collect new or gently used clothing for the homeless"

May: A time to "conduct a Memorial Service"

June: A time to "fellowship with our Veterans at the Iowa Veterans Home or a local care facility."

July: A time to "rest"

These are just ideas! I would like you to record what you do each month. Then compile a narrative and send to me by June 30, 2018. I will have an award for the Auxiliary member who goes above and beyond in following in our Lords teachings to serve others. Remember, to everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the Heaven.

I will be making a book of prayers, poems or sayings for President Vickie throughout the year. Please send me something that you like so that I can put it in her book. Remember her symbol is the white mustang and her colors are red, blue and purple. Let's make this book as unique as the white mustang President Vickie rode at Department Installation. Please send to my email address listed above or by snail mail.

Chaplain Contests

Best Book of Prayers and Inspirations:

- Class I:** District Chaplain's Book of Prayers & Inspirations for her District President
- Class II:** Unit Chaplain's Book of Prayers & Inspirations for her Unit President
- Class III:** District Junior Chaplain's Book of Prayers & Inspirations for Junior Dept President
- Class IV:** Unit Junior Chaplain's Book of Prayers & Inspirations for her Unit Junior President

Rules for all classes are the same with exceptions

1. Use 8½ x 11 paper. Pages should be typed (Junior's – can be handwritten). Leave 1" border on all sides of each page. Use pictures or clipart to decorate.
2. Cover may be folder of your choice, notebook, construction paper or tother decorative paper. Cover page must have "Prayers and Inspirations" centered and the American Legion Auxiliary emblem (available through Emblem Sales) at the top of the page.
3. The first page shall include the name and address of the member submitting the entry, the class category, unit name and number, county, district, and to whom the book is dedicated.
4. There is a maximum of 20 pages (40 if using both sides).
5. Judged on neatness, quality, creativity, and content. You may use President Vickie's theme, symbol and songs. Book should have a theme tying all entries together.

Best Booklet of Prayers and Inspirations or "Thinking of You" booklet (For nursing homes/shut-ins)

- Class I: Any Senior Auxiliary Member**
- Class II: Any Junior Auxiliary Member**

Rules for both classes

1. Use 8½ x 11 paper, folded in half. Size of booklet will be 8½ x 5½. You may use a 10" plastic photo album. Pages may be typed or neatly handwritten. Use pictures, your own artwork, or stickers.
2. Cover may be construction paper or other decorative paper folded to correct size. Cover must have "Prayers and Inspirations" or "Thinking of You" centered along with the American Legion Auxiliary emblem at the top of the page.
3. First page must include the name and address of the member submitting the book, class category, unit name and number, county and district. Maximum of 20 pages.
4. Judged on neatness, quality, creativity, and content. You may use President Vickie's theme or personally-created theme. These are not judged by District Chaplains. Please submit your entry directly to Department Chaplain Doris Jackson.

***Booklets are due to Department Chaplain Doris Jackson
and postmarked by April 30, 2018.
Booklets may be picked up at end of
Senior or Junior Department Conventions.***

VA & R: Service to Veterans

Kathy Wilkerson, Department Chairman
kathy.f.wilkerson@monsanto.com or 563-607-0339

Service to Veterans volunteers are ALA members who provide service to veterans, military and their families. This can be done in your home or in your community and all members can participate. Just remember it must take place outside of a VA Medical Center. You can cook, bake, do laundry, baby sit, clip coupons, read, provide transportation for appointments and errands, small home repairs, do yard work, participate in stand downs in your community, and even assisting with veterans' burial and graveside upkeep. Short on time, but have the means, provide monetary support for rent or utility deposits. There are just so many ways to help our veterans, military and their families.

Keep track of your hours, expenses and in-kind donations when doing your volunteer work. The tracking period is from April 1, 2017, to March 31, 2018, and your hours and expenses must be certified by your units and sent on to the VA&R Service to Veterans Chairman by April 30, 2018. Volunteers will earn "hour bars" when reaching specific hour milestones of 50, 100, 300, 500, and 1000 hours after which time they will earn bars in 1,000 hour increments. These hours are cumulative from year to year so keep working hard at increasing your hours and earning more "bars." Don't forget to include your junior members and keep track of their hours as they can earn "hour bars" also.

So, run free with your ideas on how you or your Legion Family can be of service to veterans, servicemembers and their families. Accomplish those ideas to the best of your ability and you will make a difference in the lives of others. And remember to report hours and expenses to me by the deadlines with all the required information. PLEASE include all the required information when reporting (membership number, name, hours) do so legible and on time. I cannot report what I do not know. But I do know Iowa has awesome volunteers and EVERYONE needs to report!

Be sure to send me your narratives on what your Unit has been doing for Service to Veterans within your community and in your homes so I have the information by April 30, 2018. Kathy Wilkerson, 9326 Hwy 99, Wapello, Iowa 52653.

VA & R: Stand Downs

Pam Clark, Department Chairman

Helping our homeless veterans is a mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. One way we can be proactive in this endeavor is by participating in local stand downs. Named after a military term for a combat unit's time to rest and recover while at war, today it is a grassroots effort to offer the same services to military veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The philosophy of a stand down is to give homeless veterans a hand-up, not a hand-out.

What can we do? Please consider giving a little of your time to volunteer your services at a stand down or make a donation to support our local stand downs. Be sure to keep track of your time and report it through your unit's VA&R Service to Veterans form that will be submitted to Kathy Wilkerson at the end of Auxiliary year. Below is a list of the dates for our Iowa and neighboring stand downs:

Des Moines (Des Moines St. and SE 12th); September 15-17, 2017, Fri. 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Sun. 8 a.m. to noon. Pans of bars are needed by Sept. 15., 3 p.m.. For more info contact Kimberly Neal at 515-669-1732. Vets needing a ride to the stand down should call 515-326-4696. Services offered: meals and clothing, dental, military chaplain, legal info, VA claims, Vet Center, haircuts, medical screening, and employment assistance (bring your resume).

Sioux City (Long Lines Rec Center); August 24, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Cedar Rapids (Veterans Memorial Stadium); September 9, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Quad Cities (Davenport/Moline/Rock Island); September 15-16 (QCCA Center in Rock Island, IL); Registration Friday 7 a.m. to noon. To donate contact Mike Malmstrom at 309-269-2012. To volunteer contact Gloria Menzer at 309-593-4400 or email her at volunteer4standdown@yahoo.com.

Dubuque (Dubuque Masonic Temple on Locust Street); September 28, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sioux Falls (VFW Post, 3601 S. Minnesota Ave.); September 22, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more info call 605-330-4552.

Omaha; November 17 (tentative—details TBA)

Iowa City; TBA (November time frame)

If you know a Veteran who would benefit from the aid of trained counselors who are able to refer veterans to services in their area, have them call the hotline: 1-877-424-3838. It's free and confidential and sponsored by the Dept. of Veterans Affairs.