

# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Issue 1

January 2010

DEPARTMENT OF UTAH



## President's Comments

HAPPY NEW YEARS!

We are off to a good start with memberships; however we still have a few Units that have not sent in any memberships. If there is a problem please contact Cori or Debi Swafford and talk to them about it. We almost hit our target date of 75% we were shy 84 memberships paid. How sad.

Remember Martin Luther Day of Service to our Veterans is January 18<sup>th</sup>. As a Unit or member visit nursing homes in your area and spend a few minutes with them let them know that we care and appreciate them. Have your young juniors make cards or gifts to take with you, have them come along if they can. Do the same for a shut in, perhaps take them a hot meal or ask what they need help with. If there is something going on in your community, get involved. But please report back to me what you have done.

I still have not received all the services hours for the units. Please call me @801-664-9886 and I will jot them down so that I can do my mid-year report. Thank you.

The Department Oratorical will be on February 13<sup>th</sup> at the V.A Hospital in Bldg 8 beginning at 1 pm. If you can attend you find it very enlightening. It shows us that we have a large number of youth that can lead us in our future years in government and beyond.

March 20<sup>th</sup> will be Legion Birthday Party. It will be held this year in Fillmore, Utah. at their Post home. There will also be an Executive Meeting on

that day. More information to come.

I have been advised by National that the "Toasty Toes" program has been stopped. If you have any slippers now you will need to contact a soldier yourself and ship them to him direct. Or send them to the VA Medical Center for use by the patients there.

I received an e-mail from Western Natl. Vice Pres. Peggy Brown, she states that while hear in Dec. we took her to the VA Nursing and she spoke the receptionist about adult bibs. Since then she had a call from Elias, the dietary mgr. and he ask if she could help him get some donated. The clothing protectors are very costly and cut into their budget. Her unit made 100 for the nursing home in Ariz. Since the Toasty toes program has been stopped. I am wondering if there are any units that would like to help in this different project. I ask Peggy if her unit had a pattern or any information that would be of help on this. Waiting for a reply but if you are interest let me know and I will see that you get the info. Remember we have two (2) nursing homes now and the need will double.

Yours truly,

Nina Mason

90 Years of Service Not Self for Veterans, God and County

9060 Treasure Way, Sandy, UT 84093

Home 801-944-7050, Cell 801-662-9886

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## **President's Project- Operation Give**

### **OPERATION TROOP SUPPORT**

- Operation Give sends support to our Troops year round!
- Operation Give sends care packages to the Troops throughout the Year!
- Please send care packages!
- Get ideas for care packages from [www.operationgive.org](http://www.operationgive.org)
- Fed Ex gives free shipping to our Salt Lake City Warehouse
- Donations are needed to ship 40 ft. containers to Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Operation Give 2275 S. 900 w. Salt Lake City, Utah 84119.
- Any question call 435-512-4956 or email [operationgive@gmail.com](mailto:operationgive@gmail.com)

### **Troops request sports equipment for their own use and to help them in winning the Peace.**

AMERICAN LEGION SUPPORTS OPERATION GIVE'S PROJECT TO TAKE BASEBALL TO THE CHILDREN OF IRAQ.

**This is the 1<sup>st</sup> year of Operation Give sending the game of baseball to Iraq and Afghanistan.**

<http://www.operationgive.org/main-page/main-page/operation-play-baseball.html>

Operation Give wants to take the game of baseball to Iraq and Afghanistan. Through your kind and generous donations of new and slightly used baseball equipment, the Troops will be able to play ball among themselves and will also be able to set up teams for the children in Iraq and Afghanistan in order to teach them the game of Baseball. Boys and girls of all ages will be able to play this great all-American sport and will learn a lot more than just baseball.

Operation Give will collect and ship the baseball equipment to the Troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and arrange for the distribution to the troops and ultimately to the children.

### **OPERATION PLAY SOCCER**

<http://www.operationgive.org/main-page/main-page/operation-play-soccer.html>

#### **WHAT DO CHILDREN IN THE US AND CHILDREN IN IRAQ HAVE IN COMMON?**

A great love for soccer! Children in Iraq and Afghanistan love soccer so much, they'll play the game with any kind of ball they can get their hands on, including rocks. In the USA our children are fortunate to have the all the resources and soccer supplies they need and more. I am sure all of you have extras that are slightly used or ones that are now too small. We would like to give everyone an opportunity to donate their new or slightly used equipment, in order to help put cleats on the feet and soccer balls in the hands of children in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Outside the United States, soccer is really the one universal language," said Operation Give's Chief Paul Holton, who served as an interrogator in Iraq with the 141st Military Intelligence Battalion. The donations go to our troops to deliver to needy children overseas. Operation Give is a Team Member of the Pentagon's America Supports Youth Program.

**Constitution and Bylaws**

**FROM; Coral May Grout, National Constitution & Bylaws Chairman**  
**SUBJECT: Questions and Answers for Constitution and Bylaws**

Below are some of the questions that have been raised so far this year. As more questions are sent to us, additional Q&A sheets will be sent to you. Many thanks to Pat Kranzow, Diane Delashmit, Judge Advocate Underdonk, and Kris Nelson for their input into this factsheet.

**Question #1:** Does the National Judge Advocate have to sign off on membership applications?

**Answer:** Departments of the ALA are independent, autonomous bodies that run their own affairs. They are subject to the general oversight but not day-to-day operational control of the National Organization. Thus, there can be no such requirement.

**Question #2.** Does an officer need to be installed in order to hold office?

**Answer:** An officer must be elected, but she does not need to be installed. The Installation is only a ceremony.

**Question #3:** How much is a majority?

**Answer:** One more than half the voting members.

**Question #4:** What is the difference between Constitution & Bylaws versus Standing Rules?

**Answer:** The Constitution & Bylaws identify the most important rules of the organization. The bylaws support the organization in that they are the basic rules. The Standing Rules, on the other hand, are the rules that support the actual operation of the organization.

**Question #5:** How many meetings is a member required to attend in order to continue her membership?

**Answer:** None. If a member's dues are paid, this means that the member is in "good standing" and therefore able to continue her membership.

**Question #6:** Can a woman still belong to the ALA, even if the veteran under whom she joined is deceased?

**Answer:** Yes!

***(continued on next page...)***

**(Constitution and Bylaws continued)**

Question #7: Can members belong to more than one unit?

Answer: No. If a member wishes to join another unit, she can transfer her membership, provided it is current. Transfer forms are available either through the unit secretary or president. A current membership card, however, allows a member to attend a meeting or participate in the activities of any unit, including those in other states or countries.

Question #8: Where can we purchase a copy of the current edition of Roberts Rules?

Answer: There are many places. National Emblem Sales has them available online or by ordering from the catalog. Most booksellers also sell the current edition.

Question #9: How many meetings does a unit need to hold annually?

Answer: The National documents do not regulate this. Contact your Department to see if their documents set a limit. Otherwise, your unit can make the determination and include in its Standing Rules.

Question #10: How can our Department obtain answers to Constitution and Bylaws questions?

Answer: Questions can be emailed to Aaronette Lambert at National Headquarters, who will forward them to our Committee. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee will answer any questions that you have this year.



With sadness we report that our friend and Department Treasurer Mary Blain passed away on December 26, 2009. She died after complications from surgery and a valiant battle with pneumonia. She spent countless hours working for and volunteering for the Utah ALA. Mary served with pride as a Past Department President. Condolences may be offered online at [www.memorialutah.com](http://www.memorialutah.com) or sent to her husband Bill Blain: 2963 Abby Springs Circle, West Jordan, UT 84084



Packets will be sent out the first of January.

Girls' State Chairman's should contact the counselor at your local high school(s) as soon as possible. Information has already been sent to the school counselors, they are aware that the Auxiliary will be contacting them to schedule interview times. After you have made your selections, leave a list of the delegates with the school counselor.

**All applications and monies are due by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010**

**Remember:**

1. Applications need to be notarized. There is a need to do this to make sure the American Legion Auxiliary and staff will not be sued and that the girls could be taken to the hospital if needed. Their banks and credit unions will usually notarize with no cost.
2. Have the girls write checks to the Unit and the Unit will then send one check for registration and one for transportation. If we have extra girls later - checks still need to be from the Unit.
3. Girls' State date is June 7-12, 2010
4. Fees per girl  
Registration \$320 (includes reg., food, lodging, college credit, etc...)  
Bus (if applicable) \$75
5. Extra girls - There will be limited girls because all schools will be out of session and not giving up their girls.
6. Information will be on Aux. Web page.
7. The girls will bring their concurrent enrollment paper with them to Girls' State in June.
8. Applications can be obtained from Aux. representatives if there is one working with them. If not they can make the request from Cori. She will be giving out the extra girls applications also.

Thank you for helping with this great program,

Valerie B. White  
801-489-7625  
valeriebwhite@gmail.com

**Note of Thanks**

Primary Children's Medical Center appreciates funds donated by the American Legion Family because all of the information we submit is always clear and complete. What a great compliment! Thank you for your donations!

Community Service

How Will You Participate in the MLK Day of Service on Jan. 18? Have you considered making Monday's national holiday to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. a day on instead of a day off? Many American Legion Auxiliary members are doing exactly that by joining with other organizations in a day of service.

**Please send a mid-year report of activities for Community Service to me as soon as possible. I need to provide a report to the Western Division Chairman by the end of January. All units are encouraged to do a community service project on Jan 18th, Martin Luther King Day of Service.**

**Karen Lucero, Community Service Chairman**

*Give a Day. Get a Disney Day.*

We want to inspire one million people to volunteer a day of service to a participating organization in their communities. So we're celebrating these volunteers' good works by giving each of them a 1-day, 1-theme park ticket to the Disneyland® Resort or Walt Disney World® Resort, free. There's no better time to make a dream come true for others and let us make a few come true for you. Program begins January 1, 2010 and continues until tickets are distributed or until December 15, 2010, whichever occurs first.

<http://disneyparks.com> Click on the right hand side of the web page where it says "Give a Day. Get a Disney Day."



## Americanism

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) sponsors an Americanism Essay Contest for students in grades 3-12. Grade levels are divided into five Classes. Five Division winners (one from each class will be chosen) and one National winner (one from each class will be chosen.) Division winners receive \$100 and a citation; National winners receive \$500 and a citation plaque.

**Essay Theme:** "What is my Patriotic Role as a U.S. Citizen?"

**Essay Classes:**

Class	Grade Level	Word Requirement
I	3 and 4	150-250
II	5 and 6	250-300
III	7 and 8	350-400
IV	9 and 10	450-500
V	11 and 12	450-500

**Essay Check List:**

Student Grade\_\_\_\_\_ Class Competing In\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring ALA Unit\_\_\_\_\_

Typed or neatly written essay conforming to the word limit for Class

Completed Essay Cover Sheet as first page of essay

**Complete this Information:**

Student Name:\_\_\_\_\_

Address (Street, City, State, Zip):\_\_\_\_\_

School Name:\_\_\_\_\_

School City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name and Signature:\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Unit:\_\_\_\_\_

The deadline for the Americanism Essay Contest, for grades 3 to 12 is April 15, 2010.

This is the Department deadline. Please send essays and applications/cover sheets to: Patti Murphy,  
89 East Center Street, Moab, Utah 84532

### Secretary's Scoop

Hi ladies!

- A big thank you goes out to everyone who donated money, items, and their time toward making the Gift Shop a huge success. We were able to serve many happy veterans by helping them choose, wrap and ship gifts to their loved ones.
- We've come across some older Auxiliary pins available for purchase from the Dept. of-  
fice for \$1.00 each. These include: Officer's pins with ribbons, member pins and Past  
President pins.

Thank you for all of your hard work!  
Cori, Department Secretary

### The Gift Shop was a Great Success!

On behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Utah, I wish to thank you, Nancy, and all the other offices for all the support you gave us at the recent Gift Shop. It was a pleasure working with you all to help serve these veterans. Here is my report, please let me know if you need any additional information.

Number veterans served: 158 (inpatient, Nursing Home, outpatient)

Number of gifts total: 793

Number of packages mailed: 70 pkgs

Postage: 720.00 using UPS, approx 50.00 US Postal Svc (1 overseas, 2-3 PO Boxes, several re-sent due to address issues)

Donated items: 4822.00

Donated funds: approx 2000.00

Donated hours: 486      American Legion (33)  
                                  American Legion Auxiliary (54)  
                                  Sons of the American Legion (3)  
                                  American Legion Auxiliary Junior Members (3)  
                                  Western Division National Vice President,  
                                  American Legion Auxiliary

Again, thank you for all the support. We'll let you know if there is a different chairperson next year.

CARY FISHER, Gift Shop Chairman  
 American Legion Auxiliary, Dept of Utah

January 2010

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
					1 <i>New Year's Day!</i>	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2010

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13 Oratorical Contest 1 pm V.A. Hosp. Bldg. 8
14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day!</i>	15 President's Day	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Washington's Birthday	23	24	25	26	27
28						