

September 2015
Department Headquarters

You can now pay your 2016 membership renewal online. National will send to me a list of all members that have paid online. Once I receive this list, I will send a check to the unit for their portion of the dues. I will send this check to the Unit Treasurer.

DISTRICT PRESIDENTS – PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU LET YOUR UNIT PRESIDENTS KNOW THIS. I DID NOT RECEIVE AN UPDATED LIST OF OFFICERS FROM SOME OF THE UNITS.

Assessments:

VA & R assessments are due by 12-31-2015.

The assessments are:

\$30

\$0.15 per senior member as of December 31.

\$0.25 per past president on you membership roster

CHAIRMAN – You must have your bulletin to me by the 1st of the month. They will be mailed out on the 5th of the month.

Hope to see you all at the Fall Conference.

Jennifer

Chaplain

American Legion Auxiliary chaplains have compassionate hearts dedicated to service "for God and country." They help members connect with God and act as spiritual guides in the practice of prayer and service. Chaplains reach out not only to The American Legion Family but also to all of those with needs in their communities, states, and nation.

Chaplains at the unit, department, and national levels serve alongside their fellow members and are called upon to pray at gatherings and to lead services such as memorials for our fallen soldiers and deceased members. They energize the hearts of Auxiliary members and foster selflessness as they serve veterans, the military and their families.

American Legion Auxiliary chaplains express, by word and action, our founding principle of service to God and Country and all departments and units are encouraged to celebrate diversity among people and faiths. Auxiliary chaplains provide spiritual and emotional guidance when needed or requested, always sending dignity and respect to the occasion.

Programs and Activities:

It should be the objective of the chaplain to:

1. Pray for the American Legion Auxiliary, its members and leaders, for success in carrying out our mission.
2. Guide members through prayer experiences that are appropriate for the situation.
3. Act as spiritual ambassador of the organization.

Through bulletins and other means of communication, the chaplain should:

1. Provide and promote emotional and spiritual support to The American Legion Family by sending emails, prayers, etc., to members throughout the administrative year.
2. Reconnect with the heart of God, the master of might, and promote our founding fathers' desire to create one nation under God.
3. The chaplain is responsible for all invocations, benedictions, and memorial services for deceased members at official meetings.
4. Recommend educational materials that promote a spirit of unity and love.
5. Schedule spiritual, fun events throughout the year that provide fellowship time and spiritual growth.

All prayers and devotional thoughts must be non-denominational. (Source: Guidelines for National Chaplain)

Non-denominational means "not restricted to or associated with a religious denomination."
(Source: www.answers.com/topic/nondenominational)

Chaplain Reporting

Each unit chaplain is encouraged to submit a mid-year and end-of-year narrative report to the department chaplain by January 2, 2016, and May 15, 2016, respectively, outlining the activities of the unit. Prayers for department president's prayer book should be submitted to the department chaplain by May 15, 2016. (Dates are subject to change)

Awards

Certificates will be awarded to all units who submit prayers for the president's prayer book and a trophy for the best senior prayer book and the best junior prayer book.

Additional Resources You Can Use

1. www.ALforVeterans.org:

- a. American Legion Auxiliary Unit Guide Book**
- b. Guidelines for National Chaplain of the American Legion Auxiliary**
- c. National Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules of the American Legion Auxiliary**
- d. Chaplains' Prayer Book of the American Legion Auxiliary**

2. Auxiliary Chaplains on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/alachaplains

Chaplains, when you send sympathy, get well, thinking of you, or whatever card fits the occasion, feel free to send me the name and address so that I can send one on behalf of the department.

Joy is the echo of God's Life within us. -Joseph Columba Marmion

**Jerilynn Kabel, Chaplain
367 Lillian Ave
Elizabethtown, KY 42701
kabelgal@hotmail.com
270-272-7838**

Constitution & By-laws

Well ladies, another year is upon us and it's time to review your governing documents.

Some very important points to remember: Standing Rules are unique to your unit and should include how you donate to programs, how you disperse money in case of death, illness etc. as well as how your unit handles the lending of equipment, or the way your membership can or cannot solicit for donations.

Another point to be taken into the mix, your unit cannot have anything in these documents that is in conflict with Department or National Constitution and By-laws.

I will need your mid-year report by December 1st. 2015 and your final report by May 1st 2016 in order to report to National. These reports are so very important to let National know what we are doing.

Those of you who attended the Spring Conference and the Convention workshops know how much fun Constitution and By-laws can be. I hope we can have more of these this year.

I urge all Units to pay more attention to your governing documents and thereby alleviating a lot of problems that might arise and if you make it fun more members will participate thereby creating more awareness of our operation.

The Constitution and By-laws Committee welcomes your participation by sending your unit documents for review.

For God and Country,

Lois Hall, Chairman

Constitution & By-laws

Department of Kentucky

Children & Youth Barbara Austin, Chairman

The purpose of the Children and Youth program is to care for and support children and youth, particularly those of veterans and military families. With that in mind, please keep a running journal or notebook of any activity that you, your unit, or its members do for the betterment of children. This will make reporting so much easier and increase the likeliness of Kentucky being recognized at the 2016 National Convention in Cincinnati. Even in the event that your unit accomplishes only one activity that benefits children, please report that to me by December 15, 2015 so that I may send to national a mid-year report. I can only report the information that you send to me, so please, e-mail or snail mail a report.

This year, Children & Youth is teaming up with Child Welfare to make a HUGE impact on the needs of our children throughout the entire state of Kentucky. Some children are lacking self-esteem because they do not have the clothing that the majority of the students in their schools are wearing each day. We can help these needy kids by locating them and providing **new** school clothing, thus improving their lives both in school and at home. **We are asking each and every unit member to bring to the conferences and Department Convention one new item of clothing for a needy child in our state.** Check the sales and clearance racks and select a shirt, blouse, skirt, or pants for a child in any size, uniform style or appropriate style for school. Place this new item in a bag and label with your name and the name of your unit. If some of your unit members are unable to attend the conference, collect these items at the unit and ask a member who will be attending the conference to turn them in. If you are unable to shop for an item, we will also collect monetary donations so that specific sizes or items can be purchased. One item (4 times a year) will not cost any member a great deal, but can you imagine the impact our Kentucky auxiliary members will have on the welfare of our children? We will collect these items and report, in future bulletins, the numbers of items and the units participating.

We want to make sure that **ANY** child **ANYWHERE** in Kentucky who has a need will benefit, so we are asking an auxiliary member from each district to volunteer to be the C & Y liaison. This person will contact the schools in the area, identify children in need, and pass this information on to Dee Schutz or me with sizes, and whether uniforms or regular clothing is needed. We will gather the items and get them to the liaison to be delivered to the school.

We have two districts already covered, as Bonita Robey (District 3) and Marie Hale (District 11) have generously volunteered. We still needs liaisons for the other nine districts. **Please call or e-mail and let us know if you will be the one dependable person who will stand up for our children in your district.**

Here are some of the other ways that your unit can impact children:

1. Sponsor an **Operation Military Kids** (OMK) camp in your area.
2. Assemble **OMK Hero Packs or Family Packs.**
3. Host a **"Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2"** (KDH2) program with recognition buttons to let military kids know that we appreciate their sacrifice too.
4. Support **Operation Give a Hug** - This huggable doll provides a window for a picture of the military family member and supports the child during their parent's separation or deployment.

5. **Support G.I. Josh** - Identify military children who may have a parent or sibling deploying. G.I. Josh is a plush dog, and the accompanying storybook will help the child through separation and deployment of their loved one.
6. Purchase the book, ***Klinger, a Story of Honor and Hope***, from TAPS with the companion plush horse for children who are grieving the loss of a military parent or loved one.
7. Team up with other community groups that are also concerned with the special needs of military children (i.e., Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), Give an Hour, Military Parents, Guard/Reserve Family Readiness Group representatives, etc.).
8. Identify homeless veterans' children who need our assistance. Call area homeless shelters; identify yourself as being in the ALA, and ask if they know the needs of a child of a homeless veteran.
9. Provide safe activities for the community's children - for example, Christmas parties, Easter egg hunts, Trick or Treat, etc.
10. Nominate a child for the **Youth Hero Award** - when you hear of, see in the newspaper, see on the television news that an under the age of 18 years of age child in your area has helped another person to get medical help, helped to get accident assistance, dialed 911 to summon help for another person, please contact the family and get their permission to nominate him/her for this award. This does not have to be a monumental feat of bravery. Just this past National Convention, Kentucky's Anderson County was recognized for this award. Let's get this recognition again! We have many opportunities to showcase a child from Kentucky, so keep an ear to the ground and write a report and send it on to our Department Secretary, Jennifer Mullins, who will forward it to National for consideration of the 2015 award.
11. Nominate a child for the **Good Deed Award** - Recognize youth (also under 18 years of age) who are great examples of community service in action. You might coordinate this with your unit Public Relations and Membership chairmen. This report should be sent to Department Secretary, Jennifer Mullins, who will certify it and send it on National.
12. Contact your county schools and get permission to visit classrooms to present a program on the U.S. Constitution from the aspect of patriotism and Americanism. This is the "**Star Spangled Kids**" program.
13. Approach teachers in local schools to assist with the needs of kids in the community, and please remember, while we are focusing on children of military and veterans, we do not turn away any child; **we assist all children!**

There are also several awards that your unit may apply for:

****Since National is working toward the Million Member Award, a unit in Kentucky might receive a Citation Plaque (one unit in each division will be awarded the plaque for a less than 1,000 word narrative) that demonstrates how working the mission of the Children & Youth Program engaged, retained and attracted Junior members to grow membership. We may include pictures, clippings, scrapbooks, and/or folders. I will need this report, typewritten and in my hands no later than May 15, 2016. **Call me for the cover sheet form.**

****Your unit may also be awarded the *Outstanding Unit Promotion of Children & Youth Activities* plaque. This is a national award (one unit in each division) to be recognized for the best Overall C & Y program actives. Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words. This report may also include pictures, etc. This report must be mailed so that I will receive it on or before May 15, 2016. **Call me for the cover sheet form.**

****Another National Unit award is a plaque for *Supporting Military Children*. Follow the same guidelines for the narratives previously listed. **Call me for cover sheet form.**

****One more national unit award is a plaque for promoting “**Star Spangled Kids**” . This is for the unit that does the best job of educating children and youth about the U.S. Constitution from the aspect of patriotism and Americanism. This can also be coordinated with the American Legion’s Oratorical Contest. Call me if you want more information on the AL’s Oratorical Contest or **you need the form for the cover sheet.**

Don’t forget, April is Children & Youth month. See www.legion.org for a list of all brochures that are available.

Additional resources you may use:

1. The American Legion C & Y programs: www.legion.org
2. American Legion Child Welfare Foundation: www.legion.org/cwf
3. OMK: www.operationmilitarykids.org
4. Josh and Friends: www.joshandfriends.com
5. Operation Give A Hug: www.operationgiveahug.org
6. TAPS: www.taps.org

I am asking each **unit** to help with the C & Y fund-raising by donating an item for our raffles and/or silent auctions for at least one conference or convention each year. Without your support we will be unable to assist the needs of our precious children of Kentucky. We will be holding the greater percentage of funds raised at the conferences and convention to be used for the children right here in our home state. If you know of a child/children who need more help than your unit can provide, or who needs the school clothes previously mentioned, please let me know.

Thank you for all you do for our priceless children.

For God and Country,
Barbara Austin
502-724-4312
barbara.austin2@att.net
3301 Cherry Tree Lane
Prospect, KY 40059

Jean Flynn
Community Service

Ladies

I would like to first say thank you to Donna for trusting in me to be the Community Service Chairperson. I am just beginning to learn the procedures of the Auxiliary and feel honored to have been asked. I want to do the best I can and hope not to let Donna or the Department down.

That being said, as your Community Service Chairperson I am committed to assisting you in any way that I am able. Please feel free to contact me by phone or e-mail. I know each one of you does something with in the year that qualifies as community service but may not realize that is what you are doing so here are some guidelines to help you. If you participate in service projects for veterans, service members, their families and local community programs you're qualifying your unit to submit a report. We are all aware of National Holidays that promote community service but did you know that taking a veteran to an appointment, helping with repairs to their home, visiting a nursing home, donating money to veteran organizations, or volunteer at libraries; food pantries; or senior citizen centers is community service. I am suggesting to each of you to carry a pocket calendar devoted to this cause and anytime you participate in an event to mark it on the day with the number of volunteers, number of hours, money donated or spent, and the type of community service activity or project that was completed. To recognize your effort and hard work I then need you to report it to your units Community Service Chairperson so that she is able to send me her report and we can make the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Kentucky proud of our commitment and service. Please keep doing what you do best by serving veterans and their families, and the community.

In closing, I want to invite each of you to check out and like the ALA Department of KY Community Service Committee Facebook page and post, post, post. A big thank you to Lisa Norvell for passing this page on to me. I look forward to serving as the Community Chairperson for the Department of KY in 2015 - 2016.

Elaine Josleyn
Education Chairperson
2015-2016
270-245-0119
jersey141953@yahoo.com

First I would like to thank each one for showing you love to the education program and the children that we helped.

Now WHOO!WHOO! Wants to be as wise as owl for education in 2015-2016 Kentucky American Legion Auxiliary does. Right!

I am asking for each units or districts to bring a backpack fill of school supplies in it. Then our President Donna Thurman while take them to the school of choice. This is part of my plan of work for Kentucky. Bring them to fall, winter, ,spring conferences and to the Department convention. Please get with so I know what unit or district bring them.

Keep bring the box tops. Be sure to count them. If you want to keep them just make a copy and bring the copy to me with the count.

Do not forget the 10 for education that the Department I will give citations out for the units that does this for education.

Pleas get veterans in the classroom. Or talk to the school to have an assembly with the student body.

I will have copies for all of our scholarships at Fall conference.

God Bless our troops,
Elaine Josleyn,Education



Junior Activities!!!

We're excited for a new year with the Juniors!

This year we will be learning meeting protocol and procedures.

I have ordered Junior Activity Handbooks for all of the girls so we will all follow along with these.

We will be working the American Legion Auxiliary Patch Program and encourage all units to do the same.

We will always do a craft at each meeting as well as learn something about the Auxiliary and "Who we are, what we do and why we matter!"

The Juniors are encouraged to enter the Poppy contests this year. They will be:

Poppy Corsage: Due at Winter Conference

Poppy Wreath: Due at Spring Conference

Please remember to clearly mark that it is a Junior entry. We will discuss more detail with the girls!

New from National: In 2016 there will not be a Junior National Convention. This was decided due to the expense of the Junior National Convention and the lack of attendance. It was decided that due to Schools starting, cost, etc., most juniors could not attend. So instead, there will be 5 National Division Junior Meetings. These will be one day meetings held at the same time/day as Mission Training. There is one in each ALA National Division and will be on a Saturday so the girls do not have to miss any school. The girls do NOT have to attend the meeting in their division. They are free to go to any of the meetings. They have lots of activities planned and they will have a "special surprise give-away at each of the 5 meetings". The dates and places for these meetings are as follows:

October 3, 2015 – Indianapolis

October 10, 2015 – West Philadelphia, PA

November 7, 2015 – Minneapolis

January 9th 2016 – Atlanta

January 23, 2016 – Las Vegas

The website to register is: [www.](http://www.cvent.com/events/2015-2016-mission-training-conference-and-division-junior-meeting/registration-)

<https://www.cvent.com/events/2015-2016-mission-training-conference-and-division-junior-meeting/registration->

There is also a link off of the www.alaforveterans.org website.

Please encourage your juniors to become more active at all levels.

We are very excited to be working with them this year and have a lot of fun things planned!

Karen Toll

Junior Activities Chair

Tracy Saunders- Junior Activities Assistant