

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY Post 4 – WICHITA, KS



Previous President's Messages by Linda L. Michlitsch President - American Legion Auxiliary Thomas Hopkins Post 4, Wichita KS

January 2012

Knowledge is Powerful

Knowledge is powerful and the women of the American Legion Auxiliary, for over 85 years, have recognized the value of being an informed member regarding the existing situation of national security.

A national defense strong enough to guarantee the security of America from any aggressor has always been a concern of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary.

The challenge before us is to keep our members informed of the necessity to know and understand the area focus. Supporting our military continues to be top priority as thousands of men and women continue to serve in protecting the freedom enjoyed today.

As members, we can make a difference in the community we serve. The commitment and dedication we subscribe to in supporting our troops enables us to take action.

The community is blessed with outstanding men and women serving in uniform in the war against terrorism. Then there are also the wives and husbands, the children, and family members who pray for the safe return of their loved ones every day they are deployed with their unit.

Members are challenged to get more involved by examples of the following:

- Shake hands with military members and say “thank you.”
- Encourage troops returning to the community to get involved in activities sponsored by the organization.
- Conduct ceremonies promoting our programs, specifically supporting our troops by distribution of promotional material.

American public support is critical to achieving the return of all prisoners, the fullest possible accounting for those still missing, and the repatriation of all remains of those who died serving our nation.

*God bless our troops. Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us.
Bless them and their families to the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. - Amen*

Linda L. Michlitsch
President - American Legion Auxiliary
Thomas Hopkins Post 4, Wichita KS

November 2011

Auxiliary Dues: Investing in our Future

We have each made a decision to belong to the American Legion Auxiliary. Why are we members of this, or any organization? We choose to belong for a variety of reasons such as finding our involvement to be meaningful, or because we are proud of what we see being accomplished by those who are actively involved. Whether you belong for personal fulfillment or pride, membership is an investment in our mission; it is a commitment to a calling larger than self. Every commitment involves making choices for the goodness of purpose.

Commitment to a mission isn't easy. Just ask any veteran. The men and women of our Armed Forces commit to protecting and defending our freedom with an investment most of us can hardly imagine. To advance their mission, they pay dearly, and for little pay. They invest their lives for us. Some pay the ultimate sacrifice so we may live freely in this great nation.

Our mission for the American Legion Auxiliary is about enhancing the quality of life for our veterans and their families. We advance our mission by investing in our outreach programs, our patriotic programs, and our leadership development programs.

We do this by investing in the ideals of the American Legion family. We have been doing this 90 plus years. Our 90 plus years anniversary of service to these heroes is cause to pause and reflect on the heritage of the American Legion Auxiliary, a group of women who have invested time and talent to support and encourage our military and veterans. To continue our service requires commitment and investment resources.

What is the value of our mission? What is our capability to serve our veterans' worth?

Big thanks,

Linda L. Michlitsch
President - American Legion Auxiliary
Thomas Hopkins Post 4, Wichita KS

September 2011

Our American Legion family has a big heart

As members of the American Legion Auxiliary; we have a lot of love and a huge amount of concern for our country and veterans. All of us treasure our community life and strive to see it improved. We share a wonderful tradition of working side by side with Legionnaires in fulfilling a common purpose...to serve America's veterans and their families.

When a lonely veteran in a VA Medical Center has a visitor from outside the family, most likely that smiling visitor will be one of us. Just as membership provides the heartbeat that makes the American Legion Auxiliary thrive, veterans are at the heart of everything we do for America. I have seen our members work wonders over the years. The hard work and dedication gives me confidence and leaves no doubt in my mind that we will have another successful year.

God bless our American Legion Ladies Auxiliary!

July 2011

The Star-Spangled Banner

By the thousands, they come to observe. The line snakes around the block ...moms with their children, school groups on field trips, visitors from dozens of foreign countries, veterans and active duty servicemen and women. They arrive to watch an operation in progress. The patient is the Star-Spangled Banner; the very flag that flew over Ft. McHenry in Baltimore on the morning of September 14, 1814, signaling an important turning point in the War of 1812. The British bombarded the fort for 25 hours, but finally gave up the attack. The sight of the flag waving "by the dawn's early light" inspired Francis Scott Key to write the words that would become our national anthem. The flag was loaned to the Smithsonian in 1907, and in 1912 it became a permanent gift. It was donated by the grandson of Fort McHenry's commander, with the stipulation that it would always remain in the public's view. The original Star-Spangled Banner is among the most treasured artifacts in the collections of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

In the late 1800s, the Armistead family received frequent requests for pieces of the Star-Spangled Banner. They reserved the treasured fragments for veterans, government officials, and other honored citizens. Despite efforts to limit the practice, however, over two hundred square feet of the Star-Spangled Banner were eventually given away, including one of the stars. On July 13, 1998, the 'Save America's Treasures' campaign was formally announced and with it, a highly-visible effort to save the iconic Star-Spangled Banner. Its' conservation effort became Save America's Treasures' flagship project, the goal being to support the detailed examination, treatment analysis, and preservation of the flag in a state-of-the-art glass laboratory allowing the public to observe, honoring the agreement that the flag remain in public view. Exhibit designers were faced with challenges including how best to ensure the flag's long-term preservation and explaining its' significance as an historic artifact and national symbol. After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, a new generation of Americans is turning to this flag. Conservators may glance up from their work and see people giving them a "thumbs up" or high five them in the air; other times, visitors may place their hand over their heart and mouth the words "Thank You"; military men and women have shown respect by saluting.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER FLAG

- Made in Baltimore, Maryland, in July-August 1813 by flag maker Mary Pickersgill
- Commissioned by Major George Armistead, commander of Fort McHenry
- Original size: 30 feet by 42 feet
- Current size: 30 feet by 34 feet
- Fifteen stars (originally) and fifteen stripes

I hope everyone had a safe 4th of July! The Ladies Auxiliary meeting is July 13th and the Businessman's Luncheon is the 28th. We are currently seeking someone to take over the cooking duties of the luncheon. Anyone interested may talk to Linda.

Please remember Star in your prayers, in addition to anyone else not feeling well. Hope everyone is staying cool in this summers' heat!

June 2011

Mission Driven:

Our mission, briefly stated, is to enhance the lives of our veterans, military, and their families in the spirit of service, not self. We advocate for veterans as well as educate citizens and mentor youth by promoting patriotism and good citizenship which, in turn, makes communities healthier and more secure. Along with our brothers and sisters at the American Legion, we are woven into the very social and political fabric of the most powerful nation on Earth.

Each member should be tracking her volunteer hours as an Auxiliary member, and as a rider also. Be sure you keep an up-to-date log of the time you spent on programs or activities for our veterans, children, families, and community. An accounting will be submitted to the appropriate chairmen for their reports in early spring 2012.

Do you know...?

The American Legion Auxiliary emblem signifies the important principles of our American way of life and our Constitutional form of government. The emblem background is formed by the rays of the sun and represent the principles of the American Legion Auxiliary - Loyalty, Justice, Freedom, and Democracy. The rings of gold and blue each have meaning; the outer gold ring represents the rehabilitation of our sick and disabled veterans; the inside gold ring, the welfare of America's children; and the unbroken circle of blue, Unity and Loyalty. The star, emblem of service both during times of war and peace, symbolizes honor, glory and constancy. The field of white behind the star exemplifies the hope of Freedom. The words "American Legion Auxiliary" combine all the meanings to symbolize truth, remembrance, constancy, honor, service, veterans affairs and rehabilitation, children and youth, loyalty, and Americanism.

Let us not forget that to each generation comes its' patriotic duty. Upon your willingness to sacrifice and endure as those before you have sacrificed and endured, rests the hope of the nation.

Remember to fly your flag on Flag Day, June 14th, and every day.

May 2011

May is a month of remembrance and is Military Appreciation Month. Nearly 1 million members of the American Legion Auxiliary will be busy preparing their local programs honoring America's heroes. The calendar includes Armed Forces Day on Saturday, May 21st, followed by traditional Memorial Day observances. May is also officer elections, so please attend the meeting.

In May, Auxiliary members pay tribute to America's fallen heroes by taking part in official ceremonies. Additionally, members promote the successful Auxiliary Poppy Campaign. As local units honor America's fallen soldiers of all eras, those serving currently are the focus of Auxiliary members' work "For God and Country".

Veterans and soldiers who are serving our country, thank you!

April 2011

The time for nominations is fast approaching on April 9th. Now is the time to step forward with the Power of One. A person's attitude toward herself has a profound influence on her attitude toward family, friends, community, and the future. The secret of success lies in doing well what you can do and not letting the rest get you down. Evaluate your success by what you **have** done, compared to what you *could* have done. If you are interested enough in something, you cannot help, in most instances, but to succeed.

Kathy, Kaye, and I have been busy working very hard on getting members to renew their membership and to provide correct addresses and phone numbers. We would like to reach our goal of 100% in time for the 5th District Convention at the end of April.

The 5th District Convention will be hosted by the Captain Edgar Dale Post 81, in El Dorado, Kansas. American Legion Auxiliary member delegates and alternates have been called to attend April 29th, 30th, and May 1st.

The 91st Department Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary is hereby called to meet in Topeka, KS on May 13-15, 2011. Our national president, Carlene Ashworth, will be attending.