

NLIC/NIC Updates

The American Legion Auxiliary made a smooth transition last spring, conducting its own National Leadership and Information Conferences (NLICs).

Our members are flying solo as they take the lead in training members in leadership, veterans' advocacy and Auxiliary programs. National President Sandi Dutton and other top Auxiliary leaders decided to carry on with the sessions after The American Legion last fall opted to end its participation in the NLICs.

"The Macon NLIC was exciting because it was the first time we held an NLIC without The American Legion and the attendance was good," said National Vice President Carol Van Kirk.

"I hope the attendees gained the necessary knowledge about each program to go home and energize and educate members in their Departments."

The NLIC took place where not only the peaches were ripe with anticipation: Macon, Ga. American Legion Auxiliary members from seven states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee (Region 3) were, "makin' it happen" in Macon.

Members came eager to learn about programs of the American Legion Auxiliary, and successes within Units on the grassroots level.

"I loved the interaction with the other ladies," said Georgia's Jeanne Jones. "Hearing how or what others did for fundraisers in their communities was really interesting."

Macon, Ga. proved to be a smashing success, where lessons were learned and decisions about the future were made. Attendees left the conference revitalized and prepared to work.

"It was a great conference with a lot of great ladies who were willing and anxious to share their accomplishments in their Units and Departments," said Ann Brown of South Carolina. "It gave me ideas to work old ways into new ones."

Members attending picked up a number of different handouts and brochures to assist them in the upcoming planning stages for their programs.



"The purpose behind the chairmen at the NLICs is to share information to enable, motivate and encourage members to plan activities and

work the programs," said National

Education Chairman Terry Porter.

Two additions to the spring NLIC schedules that helped members become motivated were: 1. A special workshop where Auxiliary members in that region received inspiration and knowledge to go back to their communities and support homeless veteran service providers; and 2. A Children Miracle Network child was presented a Josh dog from Children & Youth Chairman Jan Pulvermacher.

"The best part of the conference was seeing the little girl (from Children's Miracle Network) who benefits from our support," said Kentucky's Sara Robey. "She is surely a miracle," said Betty Turley of Georgia.

The little girl that Macon attendees got to meet was Trinity Chambliss, a four-year-old with an undiagnosed medical condition, whose adorable smile was made even larger when presented with the Josh dog.

Van Kirk took many notes and listened to the attendees at the session, and also at the following two sessions in Omaha, Neb. and Hartford, Conn.,

to better plan her National Information Conferences (NICs) for the fall. The reason for the new name, NIC, is because "it's not just for the leadership of the Department," Van Kirk said. "It's for the grassroots member."



Van Kirk stressed that there are members who've been a part of the American Legion Auxiliary for a long time, and by attending the NICs, members are given new information about programs and are revitalized about their membership within the American Legion Auxiliary.

"All Auxiliary members interested in learning more about the Auxiliary should attend," said Ann Brown of South Carolina.

"There is great opportunity right now for the ALA to increase membership, with so many of our military being called up for active duty," said National Public Relations Chairman Priscilla Imburgia.

"We need to make sure we are involved in the projects that will be greatly appreciated by our communities, i.e. supporting military families (Family Support Network), being on hand to welcome home military personnel, and making sure they are hooked up with The American Legion," said Imburgia.

"Not just to increase membership, but because they need that continued comradeship," she added.

The new direction the Auxiliary is going toward involves all members and includes the new schedule for the fall NICs.

The NICs this fall will be held on Saturdays and Sundays to cut down on vacation time for employed members. Junior members will also be invited to attend.

The schedule begins Saturday morning with Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) training of Veterans Affairs (VA) Representatives and Deputies.

Saturday afternoon will provide programming on Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R). There also will be a Public Relations training session for Department and Unit Public Relations Chairmen. A Juniors' workshop is being planned as well.

Saturday evening will include a round table discussion of the VAVS participants opposite the Unit Development & Revitalization (UD&R) workshop.

Sunday morning presentations include: Public Relations, Americanism, and Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF). Sunday afternoon presentations include: National Security, Community Service, Children and Youth (C&Y), Girls State, Junior Activities, Poppy, and Legislative. A question and answer session and a final drawing will follow.

Make sure to "Save the Date" for the four weekends and eight locations of NICs. The "Regional" NICs have been eliminated, meaning that the information conferences are open to all grassroots members, who are welcomed to attend any of the conferences.

"Auxiliary members need to attend the NICs to make the Auxiliary more visible to the public, so they see all the good things the members are doing, and in turn, gain more members," said Turley.

"The NICs are a good opportunity to network with others and get good ideas to utilize and promote our programs," said Joyce Hampton of Alabama.

Your incoming National Chairmen and leaders look forward to your attendance in the fall! For questions on upcoming NICs or a detailed agenda, contact the Event Planning Team at National Headquarters, **317-955-3845** or logon to: www.legion-aux.org and look under "Meetings."

Fall 2005 NIC Dates/Locations

Sept. 16-18, 2005

**Seattle/Bellevue, Wash.
Myrtle Beach, S.C.**

Sept. 23-25, 2005

**Louisville, Ky.
Albuquerque, N.M.**



Oct. 14-16, 2005

**Rocky Hill, Conn.
Teaneck, N.J.**

Nov. 4-6, 2005

**Dallas, Texas
Lincoln, Neb.**