

Education

2009-2010 Celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the Auxiliary
National President's Theme: Reconnect and Energize!

Plan of Action: Education Committee

Purpose: To promote quality education for children and adults through classroom activities, literacy programs, scholarship promotion and support of education beyond high school.

Committee Contact Information

E-Mail: Education@legion-aux.org



National Chairman

Name: Mary Davis
Department of Washington

National Vice Chairman

Name: Penny Maklary
Department of Arizona

Committee Member

Name: Jeri Brooks-Greenwell
Department of Maine

Committee Member

Name: Ann Fournier
Department of Massachusetts

Central Division Chairman

Name: Linda Mullen
Department of Iowa

Eastern Division Chairman

Name: Christine Howard
Department of Vermont

Northwestern Division Chairman

Name: Norma Tramm
Department of Minnesota

Southern Division Chairman

Name: Marie F. Adams
Department of Alabama

Western Division Chairman

Name: LuAnn Capazzi
Department of California

National Headquarters Contact (Program Coordinator)

Name: Jeri Mutchler
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Education

National-level Objectives

1. **Objective:** Increase applications for National scholarships to a minimum of one per department by increasing awareness in local communities.

Action Steps

- a. Encourage distribution scholarship applications to every high school: public, private, and parochial.
 - b. Publicize the American Legion Auxiliary and The American Legion Scholarship Opportunities and reference supporting free link to www.needalift.org.
 - c. Encourage member's participation on local school boards and with parent teacher associations.
 - d. Encourage department contact with the Superintendent of Public Instruction or State Education Director for an education program presentation.
 - e. Interface with Facebook for Scholarship information.
2. **Objective:** To promote oral and written communication skills by instilling a love of reading for both children and adults with increasing literacy and mentoring opportunities.

Action Steps

- a. Continue the "Give 10 to Education" program. Units contribute supplies to classrooms.
 - b. Encourage members, to include Junior members, to read and share the gift of reading and writing with younger children. The Citation form is available on the Web site at www.legion-aux.org. Citations may be printed by the unit or department.
 - c. Encourage members to share the gift of reading and writing with local adult literacy and English as a Second Language programs and participate in the Miles for Reading program.
 - d. Interface with Facebook for information on American Legion educational materials, link to 'VA Kids' educational games.
3. **Objective:** To emphasize to units and department participation in educational programs of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary.

Action Steps

- a. Encourage units and departments to promote and participate in American Education Week, November 15 - 21, 2009. The fundamental objective of American Education Week is to acquaint parents and all citizens of every community with the aims and needs of their schools. Recognize teachers at this time.
- b. Encourage, promote and assist with The American Legion Constitutional Speech contest by interfacing with schools and volunteering to help at the local, district/county and department level.
- c. Support The American Legion's Policy on education by recognizing the value of education, career development, and responsibility.
- d. Encourage recruitment and support of the Veterans in the Classroom program.
- e. Encourage support of educational and scholarship opportunities for military children; Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve.

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4. **Objective:** Assist in raising the remaining estimated \$400,000 to obtain the goal of \$1.2 million for the Endowment Fund “Educating the Children of Warriors” (aka National President's Scholarship Endowment Fund).

Action Steps

- a. Encourage members to give \$10 to the Endowment Fund.
- b. Suggest donations be made to the Endowment Fund in memory of a specific veteran. Memorials will be listed in the Annual Report section of the National Convention Program.
- c. Encourage donations to the Endowment Fund to honor an educator or mentor. A listing of Honor Gifts will be listed in the Annual Report section of the National Convention Program.

To be filled out by Department Chairman:

Department Goals relating to above. Should have no more than three department-level goals supporting the National objectives outlined above. Department Chair - please share these with your Committee and forward a copy to your National Chairman. (This process does not need national approval.)

1. Objective:

Action Steps

- a.

2. Objective:

Action Steps

- a.

3. Objective:

Action Steps

- a.

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Programs and Activities

1. National President's Scholarship "Educating Children of Warriors" - The National President's scholarships are awarded to children of veterans who served in the Armed Forces during the eligibility dates for The American Legion. One \$2,500 scholarship, one \$2,000 scholarship, and one \$1,500 in scholarship money will be awarded in each division. Fifteen outstanding students will be awarded a total of \$30,000 to further their higher education. The applicant must complete 50 hours of community service during his/her high school years to be eligible for one of these scholarships.
2. The Non-Traditional Student - There will be five scholarships, each in the amount of \$1,000 awarded in the each administrative year. One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded in each division of the American Legion Auxiliary. Applicant must be a member of The American Legion, Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion and shall have paid dues for the two preceding years and for the calendar year in which application is made.
3. Spirit of Youth - One Junior member in each division will receive a scholarship valued at \$1,000 per year for four years (total \$4,000). The applicant must have held membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the immediate past three years, currently hold a membership card, and continue to maintain her membership throughout the four-year scholarship period.

Committee Awards

Unit Awards

1. Most Outstanding American Education Week Program
A plaque will be presented to the Unit Education Chairman for the most outstanding American Education Week program. Award entry shall be double-spaced in narrative form and must not exceed 1,000 words. The cover page should have the name of the award entry, Department name, Unit name, and name and address of the Unit Chairman. A copy of the Unit's Department report form must accompany the narrative. Entries must be judged at the Department level and forwarded appropriately by June 1 of each year. Do not include pictures, clippings, etc. Please mail entry to: National Education Vice Chairman, Penny Maklary.
2. Most Outstanding Literacy Program
A plaque will be presented to the Unit Education Chairman for the most outstanding literacy program. Award entry shall be double-spaced in narrative form and must not exceed 1,000 words. The cover page should have the name of the award entry, Department name, Unit name, and name and address of the Unit Chairman. A copy of the Unit's Department report form must accompany the narrative. Entries must be judged at the Department level and forwarded appropriately by June 1 of each year. Do not include pictures, clippings, etc. Please mail entry to: Jeri Brooks Greenwell.

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3. Most Outstanding Scholarship Program

A plaque will be presented to the Unit Education Chairman for the most outstanding scholarship program. Award entry shall be double-spaced in narrative form and must not exceed 1,000 words. The cover page should have the name of the award entry, Department name, Unit name, and name and address of the Unit Chairman. A copy of the Unit's Department report form must accompany the narrative. Entries must be judged at the Department level and forwarded appropriately by June 1 of each year. Do not include pictures, clippings, etc. Please mail entry to: Ann Fournier.

4. Most Outstanding Veterans in the Classroom Program

A plaque will be presented to a Unit Education Chairman for the most outstanding Veteran in the Classroom Program. Award entry shall be double-spaced in narrative form and must not exceed 1,000 words. The cover page should have the name of the award entry, Department name, Unit name, and name and address of the Unit Chairman. A copy of the Unit's Department report form must accompany the narrative. Entries must be judged at the Department level and forwarded appropriately by June 1 each year. Do not include pictures, clippings, etc. Please mail entry to: National Education Chairman, Mary Davis.

5. Give 10 to Education

A citation will be awarded to every unit participating in the Give 10 to Education program. The Citation form is available on the website at www.legion-aux.org. Citations may be printed by the Unit or Department. A new report has been placed on the website for each Unit to report the items, hours or donations made via the Give 10 program. This form will be used to prepare the Annual Report and to complete our 990. A detailed report of how each Unit has met this objective must be submitted to Education Program Coordinator at 8945 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46260 by June 1st.

Department Awards

1. Most Outstanding Overall Department Education Program

A plaque will be presented to the Department Education Chairman in each Division reporting the best over-all Department Education Program Award entry shall be double-spaced in narrative form and must not exceed 1,000 words. The cover page should have the name of the award entry, Department name, Unit name, and name and address of the Unit Chairman. A copy of the Unit's Department report form must accompany the narrative. Entries must be judged at the Department level and forwarded appropriately by June 1 of each year. Entries should be sent to the Divisional Education Chairman.

Resources

1. Scholarship applications are available on the Auxiliary's Web site, www.legion-aux.org.
2. Contact American Legion Flag & Emblem Sales online for educational products at www.emblem.legion.org/
3. Educational resources are available at no cost by contacting the Americanism and Children & Youth Commission of The American Legion or visit their website www.legion.org.

See program page on www.legion-aux.org for additional resources.