

American Legion Auxiliary News Release

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Utah American Legion leaders united in fundraising effort; Auxiliary National President to install officers

ROOSEVELT, Utah – When Debi Swafford of LaSal was chosen as state president for the Utah American Legion Auxiliary nearly a year ago she teamed with the Utah American Legion Commander, Gary Schwartz of Payson to achieve two goals: raise money for Project Compassion and create a stronger bond between the two organizations.

Proof of the success of these efforts will be on display for the National President of the American Legion Auxiliary on May 3 in Roosevelt, Utah. That's when Swafford will bring Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan of Madison, Wisc., to the Crossroads Senior Citizens Center here, a little more than 100 miles from Salt Lake City. The occasion is the Utah 9th District Convention for the two organizations.

Swafford notes that more funds will be raised for Project Compassion, the program that provides professionally done oil paintings of fallen warriors at no cost to their families. Marie Woolf, Project Compassion chairman, CEO and executive director knows about the effort from Utah. "Contributions from the American Legion Family literally help to get one more hero portrait to his or her loved ones—healing them through art," she said.

Pulvermacher-Ryan knows of the Project Compassion efforts. "It is a heartwarming undertaking by citizens who realize that "service above self" is more than a saying to those who wear America's military uniforms," she said.

During the 9th District Convention Swafford is asking the National President to conduct the installation ceremony of Auxiliary district officers to serve during the next program year. At the convention the Auxiliary will also ask the National President to assist in presenting awards to an elementary school and certificates of appreciation to students.

Pulvermacher-Ryan continues to focus on the needs of military children. "Educating Children of Warriors" is a \$1.2 million national American Legion Auxiliary fundraising campaign to endow a fund that will provide higher educational grants to needy military children.

"Getting the endowment fund better grounded will ensure these scholarships will be available as long as there are military personnel with children," Pulvermacher-Ryan said. "There's something powerful about knowing an organization's long-term needs will be met because we shared a passion for education."

Affiliated with The American Legion, the Auxiliary is a veterans' service organization with members in nearly 10,000 communities. The organization sponsors volunteer programs on the national and local levels, focusing on three major areas: veterans, young people and the community.

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EDITORS NOTE: Bio and hi-res photo at:

<http://www.legion-aux.org/NationalLeaders/NationalPresident/index.aspx>

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