

The Clickety-Clack



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American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Oklahoma

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Special Interest Articles

Getting to Know You-----
by Department President
Linda Deutser

Why The Clickety-Clack?

Celebrating 90 Years of
Service Not Self

Getting to Know You

Greetings,

It is a great honor that I have been elected to serve as the 2009 – 2010 President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Oklahoma. I have been a member of the Auxiliary for more than 13 years. My eligibility comes from my father who served in the United States Army during World War II, and my 5 brothers who served during Korea and Viet Nam, in the United States Army, Navy, Coast Guard and Air Force. Four of my brothers retired with more than 25 years of service.

During the 13 years that I have been active in the Auxiliary, I have held numerous offices in my local Unit including 4 terms as President of Unit 1, Tulsa. I also held every office in District 1. On a Department

level, I have had several chairmanship including, Public Relations, Legislative, Home and Field Service, Community Service, and Poppy Chairman. Department offices include Historian, 1st. Vice President and now Department President.

I am married to Mike Deutser, who is currently the NEC for the Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of Oklahoma. Mike and I have been married 28 years and have 4 children between the two of us. We also have 8 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren, all of whom belong to the SAL or the Auxiliary.

Since I was elected, I have officiated installations at Units and Districts across the State. I have also traveled



to the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky where I was installed as Department President along with other Department Presidents from across the Nation. I also was to attend the Presidents & Secretaries Conference in Indianapolis in Oct. but had the trip cut short due to illness (my own).

My President's Theme this year is "Let's Do It For Them – Our Children and Our Veterans". My special project is to continue our support to the American Legion Children's Home in Ponca City.

Please join me as we enjoy a wonderful year of service.

Linda Deutser

Why The Clickety-Clack?

This year, the National Membership Team is using the Railroad theme in our membership program - thus the title of this newsletter. Our Department Railroad is called the "Okie Believer's Express" and we are running "clickety-clack" down the tracks toward the Quota Railroad Station!

Get on Board the Membership Train and let's get Oklahoma to the top of the Quota List!!!

Remember –
"Membership Begins with ME!"

Congratulations to the following Units who have **already reached goal !!!**

- Billings Unit 172
- Medford Unit 37
- Coalgate Unit 242
- Noble Unit 245
- Bokoshe Unit 75
- Vici Unit 76
- Goltry Unit 3
- Clayton Unit 8
- Comanche Unit 258
- Lindsay Unit 23
- Perry Unit 53
- Oilton Unit 98
- Moore Unit 184
- Apache Unit 25
- Hominy Unit 142



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Sue Heil, National Membership Vice Chairman (Oklahoma) (left), Oklahoma's President Linda Deutser (center), and Nancy Brown-Park, National Membership Chairman (California) (right). Photograph taken at the 2009 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

Poppies



Unit Presidents – now is the time to order Single Poppies, Poppy Boards, Poppy Wreaths, and help local youths make Poppy Posters.

Let's apply President Deutser's idea of "The Little Train That Could". At each meeting tell the Memorial Poppy Story of Flanders Field written by Colonel McCrae during WWI.

Take your Poppies to public events, especially on

November 11th, Veteran's Day. Remember to participate in the Mid-Winter Poppy Corsage Contest. Each corsage should be labeled with the name of the creator, their Unit and Department. Corsages should be approximately 3-1/2" x 3-1/2" and fit in a 4" x 4" corsage box.

This year the warehouse cost is \$0.20 for single poppies, \$2.00 for Poppy Boards, and \$25.00 for Poppy Wreaths.



Order from the American Legion Poppy Warehouse, 4012 West Okmulgee, Muskogee, OK, 74401 (918/682-7341), or through the ALA Department of Oklahoma (405/528-4061).

Submitted by: Ruby Wells
ALA Department Poppy
Chairman



Has your Unit returned

your Girls State

Reservation

Card yet?

2009 Christmas Tour



Ho, Ho, Ho!!!

Christmas greetings from your Department VA&R Chairman. The holiday season is now upon us. Let's not forget to mark our calendars and take part in this year's ALA Christmas Tour at one or more of the VA Centers or Hospitals.

Everyone is welcome to come experience firsthand the joys of giving and receiving. Each center has special events planned for their veterans and your participation will only add to the excitement of the occasion.

If you would like to make contributions towards this event please contact your local VA Representative below.

Thank you for helping to make this year's celebration of Christmas a successful one.

Sincerely,
Debra Densmore

Monday December 7, 2009

OKC Medical Center,
9:00 am.
Hospital Representative:
Inez Barton, 405-226-4423

Sulphur Veterans Center,
6:30 pm.
Center Representative:
Emmelen Allen, 580-436-0433

Tuesday December 8, 2009

Ardmore Veterans Center,
10:00 am.
Center Representative:
Billie Digby, 580-226-4169

Wednesday December 9, 2009

Talihina Veterans Center,
1:15 pm.
Center Representative:
Bonnie Barnes, 918-465-0479

Thursday December 10, 2009

Claremore Veterans Center,
1:00 pm.
Center Representative:
Myrna Ladwig, 918-857-6606

Muskogee Medical Center,
3:00 pm.
Hospital Representative:
Nancy Ellis, 918-869-1432

Friday December 11, 2009

Lawton Veterans Center,
10:15 am.
Center Representative:
Becky Skinner, 580-678-3823

Clinton Veterans Center,
1:00 pm.

Saturday December 12, 2009

Norman Veterans Center,
1:00 pm.
Center Representative:
Nadine Thompson, 405-691-0161

Celebrating 90 Years of Service Not Self



Units are invited to promote the American Legion Auxiliary's 90th Anniversary everywhere and in everything you do this year. The kickoff date is November 10, 2009 and continues until the end of the Auxiliary year.

Then be sure to invite your guests to participate in your next ALA project.



National President's theme: "Reconnect & Energize!"

Our National President, Rita Navarrete, has adopted the logo "Celebrating 90 Years of Service Not Self, for Veterans, God and Country" as we celebrate the 90th anniversary of the existence of our organization.

Throw a party! Everyone loves a party. Invite the community to a Legion Family 90th Anniversary Party. Serve cake, wear party hats and provide opportunities for people to share their favorite memories of an Auxiliary event or project.



"American Legion Auxiliary members served 930,000 Veterans in 2009."



Celebrate American Education Week by Sending Thank-You Cards



American Legion Auxiliary members can participate in American Education Week by distributing thank-you cards to local schools and teachers. The cards are available on the National Website (www.legion-aux.org); just click on Current Members then select Programs (Education – Resources - American Education Week Card - Nov. 15-21, 2009) for free download.

The American Legion Auxiliary urges Units to support the National Education Association's American Education Week, which runs Nov. 15-21, 2009, spotlights the importance of providing every child in America with a quality public education from kindergarten through college and the need for everyone to do his or her part in making public schools great!

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*Celebrating 90 Years of
 Service Not Self for
 Veterans, God and
 Country*

ALA Travels

Do you like to travel? Here is a way to travel and help raise funds for the American Legion Auxiliary.

Involvement by the American Legion Auxiliary Departments is the key to the success of this new fundraising initiative.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars will be generated to support the work of the American Legion Auxiliary. In every state, Veterans and their families, communities where those veterans live and our youth will benefit.

Will you help introduce ALA Travels to the Auxiliary membership in your Unit? Following are the key points of ALA Travels.

- What is ALA Travels? The American Legion Auxiliary has its own online travel booking site similar to other sites such as Orbitz and Travelocity. No new expenditures are required. Simply redirect your travel expenditures and the Auxiliary earns a commission. In addition, if you are planning a vacation, travel with your fellow Auxiliary members on one of their all-inclusive tours.
- Why use the Auxiliary site? Commissions earned will help fund the many Auxiliary programs and services benefiting Veterans and their families in every State.
- How can your State Department help? We have developed the ALA Travels Website that explains the program, the Auxiliary booking site to book travel, and Auxiliary Group Tours. Now all you do is have fun on your trip!
- Where do you go to book travel? Simply go to www.ALAtravels.com to book all of your travel needs - airlines, hotels, car rentals, cruises, tours and more.
- When can I book travel?

CWF Awards Grants

The American Legion Child Welfare

Foundation, in its 55th year, has awarded \$636,869 to 19 non-profit organizations. These grants have been awarded to support worthwhile projects through the dissemination of information to the general public and specific target groups.

The American Legion Children's Home of Ponca City, Okla., was awarded \$41,000 for their project "American Legion Children's Home National Awareness Initiative Phase II."

This grant will support an endeavor to increase the awareness of the American Legion

Children's Home which was established to support the children of veterans families by campaigning to increase support and expand services to children in need. The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion sponsor this grant.

We are proud to receive this award for Phase II. Funds are only available through donations to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Be sure to make your donation to keep the funds available! Send your donations to Department Headquarters at the address located at the top of the first page of this *newsletter*.



National is on the Web!

See us at:

www.legion-aux.org

About Our Organization

Founded in 1919, the American Legion Auxiliary is the world's largest patriotic women's service organization. With a membership of nearly 900,000, local ALA units have a strong presence in more than 9,500

communities nationwide. The Auxiliary's mission to *serve veterans, their families and their communities* is carried out through its hundreds of outreach programs delivered by its members, volunteers and national headquarters.



