

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND GUIDE

2009-2010

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) was established in 1969 through a bequest from the estate of Auxiliary member Helen Colby Small, of Burlington, Wisconsin. The Fund was designed to assist eligible Auxiliary members who have suffered a financial setback and is meant to be a bridge offering a helping hand until financial stability is re-established. In 1981 the Fund was expanded to include educational grants for qualified members. This year we are celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the AEF.

PURPOSE

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund provides eligible members with:

1. Temporary assistance during a time of financial crisis, to pay for food, shelter, and utilities, when all other personal and community resources have been exhausted. Funds are not to be used to settle existing or accumulated debts.
2. Temporary assistance for food and shelter, due to weather-related emergencies and natural disasters. These funds cannot be used to resettle disaster victims.
3. Temporary assistance for educational training, due to life changes such as death of a spouse, divorce or separation, necessitating the Auxiliary member to assume the role of primary source of income for her family. Grants are available to members who need to obtain the necessary skills and training to re-enter the workforce, or need to upgrade skills necessary to be competitive in today's workforce.

ELIGIBILITY

Members of the American Legion Auxiliary for at least the immediate past two consecutive years AND whose current membership dues are paid at the time the emergency occurs (three consecutive years dues) may apply for assistance. The maximum grant amount is \$2,400.00, disbursed as the National Auxiliary Emergency Fund Grant Committee determines.

Since the money from the Auxiliary Emergency Fund is temporary, applicants must seek other assistance for a more permanent solution.

APPLICATIONS

Application forms are available from Department Headquarters or online at www.legion-aux.org. Once the form is filled out, it is to be reviewed by the Unit President and the Unit Secretary who will verify the information with the applicant and complete the Unit recommendation section of the application. Units only verify the information. (The Unit does not judge the application.) All information is STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. Applications are then submitted to the Department Office. The Department Secretary will forward the application to the National Headquarters for consideration.

GOALS

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund relies solely on donations made by our generous members throughout the year. With all the many natural disasters in recent years, and the hardships that our Auxiliary members are now faced with in these tough economic times, the Auxiliary Emergency Fund has been seriously depleted. The National Organization is asking every Unit to implement at least one AEF fundraising project to increase the Units donation by at least 20% over the previous year.

There are many ways that Units can generate money for this worthwhile fund, using special "AEF 40th Anniversary" fundraisers. Remember to include your Post and SAL members, and at the same time you can inform them on how their Auxiliary member relatives could be eligible for assistance from the Auxiliary Emergency Fund, if the need ever arises.

AWARDS

1. CITATION PLAQUE RECOGNITION: Mailed to one Unit per capita and one Department contributing the largest donations to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.
2. LAPEL PIN RECOGNITION: Presented to any individual contributor donating \$25 or more to the AEF.
3. CITATION AND LAPEL PIN RECOGNITION: Presented to any Department, Unit or individual contributing \$100 or more to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.
4. INDIVIDUAL RIBBON RECOGNITION: Each member contributing \$25.00 or more to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund will be recognized at the Awareness Assembly and the National Convention with a blue ribbon to be worn on her name tag/badge.
5. AEF 40th ANNIVERSARY "KICKOFF" RECOGNITION CERTIFICATE: Presented to one Unit or Department in each Division contributing the largest amount by November 10, 2009. Recognition will be given at the Awareness Assembly.
6. CERTIFICATE AND RECOGNITION AT NATIONAL CONVENTION: One individual member from each Division contributing the largest amount will receive a certificate and a special recognition at National Convention. Donation must be certified by your Department Secretary and mailed to the respective Divisional Chairman by June 1, 2010.

UNIT ANNUAL REPORTS – Are due to the District Chairman by March 31, 2010.

DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORTS – Are due to the Department Chairman by April 15, 2010

TERRI BRODOCK

Department AEF Chairman

7900 Whitneyville Ave. S.E.

Alto, MI 49302-9734

616-891-8862

tbrodock@hotmail.com