

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
CHAPLAINS GUIDE
2009-2010

It is a great year to have you as unit or district Chaplain. You are the Spiritual leader of your group. This year President Judy's theme is Serving Veterans everyday as a Holiday. Good faith should be practiced on a daily basis and as spiritual leaders for your District or Unit, it is your responsibility to practice and promote good faith at all times. Visit those who are sick or shut in to brighten their day and bring them a note of cheer. The cost is minimal, only a bit of your time. The Chaplain's duty is to serve people and I know you will do a great job.

Our National Chaplain has listed some objectives for the upcoming year;

1. To reconnect with the heart of God, the master of might, and promote our founding fathers' desire to create one nation under God.

Action Steps:

- a. Increase awareness of the actual wording of the First Amendment to the U.S Constitution, with regard to religious expression.
- b. Educate Members on awareness of the diversity of all faiths and cultures
- c. Provide and promote emotional and spiritual support to the Legion Family by sending cards, emails, prayers, etc to members throughout the administrative year.

2. To reconnect with the purpose of the National organization as stated in the Preamble by June 1, 2010.

Action Steps:

- a. Educate members on the spiritual significance of our emblem by providing them with a copy of the emblem breakdown by October 15, 2009.
- b. Provide examples of our Preamble in action (for example the Americanism program) by sending bulletins throughout the administrative year.
- c. Inspire members to embrace their individual obligation to community by highlighting the work of influential women throughout the world who have enriched others lives.

3. To reconnect with the hearts of those within our organization by energizing them into spiritual service throughout the administrative year.

Action Steps:

- a. Provide educational materials that promote organizing mentorship's with a spirit of unity and love.
- b. Schedule spiritual fun events throughout the year providing fellowship time and spiritual growth.
- c. Obtain information regarding the impact of the objectives set forth in the Plan of Action by May 1, 2010.

I believe we as Chaplains can implement some of these objectives. Hopefully you will use the cards that I have provided to start you implementing objective #1 action #c.

Through out the year if you have implemented any other of these objectives please send me a narrative of what you have done. I will pass it on to our National Chaplain.

As Chaplains your duties are many and may include the following:

1. Opening and closing prayers at meetings
2. Assisting with Funeral Services, if requested
3. Promotion the Auxiliary spiritual dates i.e: Four Chaplains Sunday, National Day of Prayer
4. Draping the Charter for deceased members
5. Hold yearly memorial services
6. Offer your assistance in sickness and death
7. Prepare a prayer book for your Unit or District
8. Encourage members to attend a church of their choice
9. Sending at least one prayer or Devotional thought to me this year for President Judy's Prayer book.
- 10.

District Chaplains: If you are holding a memorial service and wish a list of the deceased members in your district, contact Denise Carter, Department Secretary, she will be able to assist you with this. If you want your unit chaplains to send you this information directly you will need to devise a form, providing it to each Unit Chaplain in your District.

Unit Chaplains: Notification of deceased members must be made by your Membership Chairman by completing the Data Entry Form.

As Chaplains, please be prepared at all times, carry in your purse the Chaplain Prayer Manual, in case you may be called on to use it.

Chaplains, please keep a smile on your face and a good attitude, it is contagious, and you will have an effect on a lot of people around you. Remember I am at your disposal if you have any concerns or questions please give me a call or email me.

You all will be in my thoughts and prayers this year. God Bless.

Carrie F. Bowerman
Department Chaplain
795 N. Stewart Rd
Charlotte MI 48813
517-543-6689
cbowerman@charlottemi.org

Rules for the Book of Prayers and Devotional Thoughts for Juniors Alys Hunt Citation (Juniors)

A. Format of Book

1. Cover

- a. White 3 Ring 9.5"x11.5" notebook
- b. Must show the 2.5" emblem of the American Legion Auxiliary
- c. Cover may be illustrated(decorated)

2. Pages

- a. 8.5"x 11" paper
- b. Typed or printed preferred- double spaced(may be done by Senior or older Junior Member)
- c. Illustrations may be used on each page if desired

B. Contents:

1. Title Page (Very First Page)

- a. Must show 1.25" or 2.5" American Legion Emblem on top
- b. Name and number, city and size of Junior Auxiliary
- c. Name of Junior preparing book
- d. Date(current year)

2. Section I

a. Title- **Prayers**

b. Age Groups:

1. Ages 6-12

Prayers should be simple, original, and easily understood by children. Illustrations accepted. Limit to 50 words

2. Ages 13-15

Prayers should be thoughtful, clear and meaningful to this age. Illustrations accepted. Limit to 75 words

3. Ages 16- 18

Prayers should be original and humble in request and praise. Illustrations accepted. Limit to 100 words

3. Section II

a. Title- **DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS**

b. Age Groups – As closely related to those under prayers as possible.

c. Contents:

1. Verses, poems, and quotations must include:

- a. The name of the author, **and**
- b. The name of the age of the Junior submitting it, **and**
- c. The reason for picking the selection

Favorite scriptures must include:

- a. The source-Book of the Bible, chapter, verse and
- b. The name of the Junior submitting it
- c. Length of entry- not more than one-half page

4. Last Page of **ENTIRE BOOK:**

- a. Must list the name and number of the Junior Auxiliary Unit
- b. Must List the names of all Juniors participating during the current year.

C. Rules For Judging:

1. Required materials:

- a. Format----10%
- b. Title -----5%
- c. Last Page----5%
- d. % of member participation-----5%

2. Contents(Prayers and Devotional Thoughts)

- a. Originality----- 25%
- b. Neatness-----25%
- c. Arrangement-----25%

Rules for the Book of Prayers and Devotional Thoughts for Seniors

Edna Schuiteman Citation (Units)

Edna Clarahan Citation(Districts)

A Format of Book

1 Cover

- a. White, 3 ring 9.5"x11.5" binder/notebook
- b. Must show the 2.5" American Legion Auxiliary emblem
- c. May be illustrated(decorated)

B Contents

1 Title Page(Very first page)

- a. Must show 1.25" or 2.5" American Legion Auxiliary Emblem at top
- b. Dedication- " To or In Memory of---"
- c. Address, name and number, and size of Unit/District
- d. Name of Chaplain preparing the book
- e. Name of the Unit/District President
- f. Date (current year)

2 Section I

- a. Title- **PRAYERS**
- b. Contents:
 - 1 Prayers that are original or your favorite
 - 2 Original prayers- must be signed by the author
 - 3 Favorite Prayer must show:
 - a. The name of the author, **and**
 - b. The name of the person submitting it
 - 4 Length of Entry – 1 page

3 Section II

- a. Title- **DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS**
- b. Contents:
 - 1 Verses, poems, quotations, favorite scriptures
 - a. Must include
 - 1.The name of the author
 2. The name of the person submitting it
 - 2 Favorite Scriptures
 - a. Must include:
 1. The source- Book of the Bible, chapter, verse, **and**
 2. The name of the person submitting it
 - 3 Length of Entry- 1 page

4 Last page of **ENTIRE BOOK**

- a. Must list the name and number of Unit/District
- b. Must list the names of all members participating during the current year

C. Rules For Judging:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Required materials | 2. Contents (Prayers& Devotional thoughts) |
| a. Format -----10% | a. Originality-----25% |
| b. Title Page-----5% | b. Neatness-----25% |
| c. Last Page-----5% | c. Arrangement-----25% |
| c. % of member participation-----5% | |

All entries are to be sent to the District Chaplain by April 15,2008. They will be judged at the district level and only the winner shall be submitted to the Department Chaplain with a green verification slip. **The Department Chaplain must receive ALL entries by noon on Thursday, the First day of Department Convention for judging in the DISPLAY ROOM.**

Service to God and Country Program

A special entry form will be mailed with the Annual Report forms to be filled out by the Unit Chaplain. The questions will cover the following points of the program:

A. SERVICE TO GOD

1. Prayers at Unit meetings and functions.
2. "Back to God" movement, encourage members to attend Worship services, daily family prayer, religious education Classes for children.
3. Invite local religious leaders to speak at Unit meetings or functions.
4. Place a sign at the Post encouraging regular worship.
5. Flags or other materials presented to local churches.
6. Distribute "Grace Before Meals" card to restaurants.
7. Visit shut-in members.
8. Report at Unit meetings on ill and hospitalized members.
9. Send cheer or condolence cards to members and their families.
10. Drape the Charter for a deceased member.
11. Hold a Memorial Service for all deceased members in May.

B. SERVICE TO COUNTRY

1. Participate in services on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, etc.
2. Hold a special "Four Chaplains" program at Unit meeting, in a Public program or in a church.
3. Encourage spirit of brotherhood and services to God and Country in a community effort.
4. Work with local agencies on juvenile delinquency.
5. Raise the level of Physical fitness in your community.
6. Any other type of community effort to better our community and country
7. Promote youth programs such as Girl Scouts, 4-H, Junior Auxiliary Special Olympics etc.

All entries are to be sent to the District Chaplain by April 15, 2009. They will be judged at the District level and the winner shall be submitted to the Department Chaplain with a green verification sheet attached/

The Department Chaplain MUST receive All ENTRIES by noon on Thursday, the first day of Department Convention for Judging in the DISPLAY ROOM.