

**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Illinois**

Subject: Education

October 2006

“Planting and Nurturing the Seeds of Education for the Future”

Education is a lifelong learning process that starts at birth and continues until one’s last breath. It is an important part of success and must be encouraged to ensure the future of our youth. The Mission Statement of the National Education Committee is “to promote quality education for every child and support students in their desire to continue education beyond high school. And to assure that a solid education is available to both children and adults through classroom activities, literacy programs and scholarship promotion.”

There are four areas of emphasis this year:

Literacy – the ability to read and write; the goal is to provide understanding of the English language through both verbal and written communication skills for children and adults of all ages. Encourage Auxiliary members to become involved in community literacy programs serving as mentors for adults who have the desire to learn to read and write. We ask that you instill in Children the love of reading. Encourage Unit members to become active in their local elementary schools and libraries by listening to children read, participate in guest reader programs and motivate children to read.

Veterans in the Classroom – Connect with schools in your community as an American Legion Family. Veterans in the classroom will provide first hand experience, engaging students and bringing history to life. This program will provide positive adult role models and instill in students patriotism and Americanism. Activities may include teaching flag etiquette and proper respect of the flag by using the DVD “*For Which it Stands*”. This DVD also includes: “*George Learns the Pledge, Rally Round the Flag and the Flag Timeline*”. Another DVD that would be good to use is “*America’s Veterans*” this DVD will help with the understanding of Veterans and the Freedoms America has today, because of the Veteran’s personal sacrifices it also addresses the question “What does Veteran’s Day mean to you?” in the teacher’s guide.

American Education Week will be November 14 thru 19, 2006. The theme for this year is “**Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility**”. Please ask your Units to do something special for the teachers and other school personnel. Possible ideas might include: Writing thank-you notes, taking snacks or a basket of apples to the teacher’s room with a thank-you note, volunteering in the classroom, placing an ad in your community newspaper thanking all school personnel or providing them with lunch either catered or at a restaurant.

Scholarships – Education is expensive and quality education is a precious commodity. The American Legion Auxiliary seeks to assist students in their pursuit of higher education by awarding Unit, Department and National Scholarships to deserving students to pursue their dreams. Units can work with their High Schools to obtain an applicant! Start Now! Make sure that your High School is aware of the book “Need a Lift”? It is a valuable resource that lists educational opportunities, careers, loans, scholarships and employment. It is available from National Emblem Sales for only \$3.00. Another good resource is the brochure entitled “**Guide for Parents and Students**” it provides suggestions for planning for secondary education.

National has three Scholarships available under the Education program:

- **National President's Scholarship** – is awarded to children of Veterans who served in the Armed Forces during the eligibility dates for The American Legion. One \$2,500, one \$2,000 and one \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded.
- **Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Junior Members** – One Junior member in each Division (at the National Level) will receive a scholarship valued at \$1,000 per year for four years.
- **Non-Traditional Student Scholarship** – this scholarship is available for a student returning to the classroom after some period of time in which his/her formal schooling was interrupted or a student who has at least one year of college and is in need of financial assistance to pursue an undergraduate degree. The applicant must be a member of the American Legion Family. One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded in each Division (at the National level).

The above three scholarships require an essay be written and community service hours be accumulated along with having membership requirements. The applications for these scholarships should be requested from Department Headquarters and be returned to Department Headquarters for judging.

Illinois Scholarship are as follows:

- **Ada Mucklestone Memorial Scholarship** – Candidates for this scholarship shall be children or grandchildren of veterans who served in the Armed Forces during the eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion, awarding one \$1,200, one \$1,000 and additional \$800 scholarships as funds permit. Applicant must be a resident of the State of Illinois.
- **Illinois Scholarship for Junior Members** – Candidates for this scholarship shall be Junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary, said Junior to have held membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the past three years and must now hold a Junior membership card for 2007. Awarding one \$900 and additional \$800 scholarships as funds permit.
- **Mildred R. Knoles Scholarship (Opportunity)** – Candidates for this scholarship shall be veterans, children or grandchildren of veterans who have served during the eligibility dates, who are in need of financial assistance to continue their college/university education and who is a resident of the State of Illinois. Awarding one \$1,200 and additional \$800 scholarships as funds permit.
- **Marie Sheehe Business/Trade School Scholarship** – Candidates for this scholarship shall be children or grandchildren of veterans who have served during the eligibility dates for members and wish to continue their education by attending a business or trade school and need financial assistance. Applicants must be a resident of the State of Illinois. As many \$800 scholarships as funds permit.
- **Past President's Club of Illinois Scholarship** – Candidates for this scholarship shall be pursuing Graduate Studies toward obtaining a Graduate Degree and is a full time student. Candidates shall be veterans, children or grandchildren of veterans who have served during the eligibility dates for membership, who are in financial need. Applicant must be a resident of the State of Illinois. One \$800 scholarship will be awarded.

Please read and follow all rules carefully!

Units may once again submit an application for the following.

- One Department Scholarship (Ada Mucklestone, Marie Sheehe, Illinois Scholarship for Junior members and the Mildred R. Knoles)
- One application for the Past President's Club Scholarship
- One application for a National Scholarship

Units must also make a contribution to the Education Fund by March 15, 2007.

Please remember if a student has already received an Illinois scholarship, they may not apply for a second scholarship. However, those who applied and did not receive a scholarship are encouraged to reapply.

National Awards:

- **President's Award for Excellence** – An award to the Unit with the Best Overall Education Program. Entries must be in narrative form not to exceed 1,500 words and must include the name of the Department, name and number of the Unit, and the name and address of the Unit Chairman. **Pictures may be included** with your entry. This award will be presented on the floor at the 2007 National Convention in Reno, Nevada. These entries must be submitted to the National Chairman Kris Nelson, 14678 Fairway Dr., Baxter, MN 56425 no later than June 1, 2007.
- **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 report form must accompany the narrative. Entries must be judged at the Department level and forwarded appropriately by June 1, 2007. Do not include pictures, clippings, etc. Please mail entry to Teri Miller, National Education Vice Chairman, 315 W. Republic, Peoria, IL 61604-3540.
- **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 report form must accompany the narrative. Entries must be judged at the Department level and forwarded appropriately by June 1, 2007. Do not include pictures, clippings, etc. Please mail entry to Patricia Lane, National Education Committee Member, 428 Cherry Creek Rd., Marquette, MI 49855-9402.
- **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 report form must accompany the narrative. Entries must be judged at the Department level and forwarded appropriately by June 1, 2007. Do not include pictures, clippings, etc. Please mail entry to Sandra

Neylon, National Education Committee Member, 23 Tuttle Brook Rd., Twin Mountain, NH 03595-0364.

- **Most Outstanding Veterans in the Classroom Program** – 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, 2007. Do not include pictures, clippings, etc. Please mail entry to National Education Vice Chairman, Teri Miller, 315 W. Republic, Peoria, IL 61604-3540.

Department Awards:

- **Ruby’s Canteen Dancers Plaque** – to the Unit for the best overall participation in the Education program – judged from the Unit report form.
- **Bea Allen Plaque** – to the Unit with the highest percentage of contributions by May 15th to the Education program based on previous year’s membership as of July 31st.

Personal Awards:

- **Runner-up to the Ruby’s Canteen Dancers Plaque**
- **Runner-up to the Bea Allen Plaque**
- **\$5.00 cash award to each of the four Narratives forwarded to National for competition.**

Teri Miller -Education Chairman
Audrey Atteberry – Committee Member
Marion Schwermann – Committee Member

Detach and mail to:
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Illinois
P.O. Box 1426
Bloomington, IL 61702-1426

Date _____

_____ Unit No. _____

District _____ Located at _____

Wishes to Contribute _____ to the Education Fund.

Signed _____

Address _____

City _____