

Community Service

2010-2011 National President's Theme: The Power of One
2010-2011 Department President's Theme: It is Great to be an American!

Plan of Action: Community Service Committee

Purpose: Mobilize The American Legion Family, the veteran and military community, and the general population of the community to provide service directed to veterans, active duty service members, and their families.

Committee Contact Information



Department Chairman

Berneice Barham
2922 Williamsburg Road
Hattiesburg, MS 39402
Home Phone: 601.296.9415
Cell Phone: 601.606.5049

Committee Member

Mary Jane Ervin
205 Marler Street
Cleveland, MS 38732
Phone: 662.843.4607
Email: boylegirl59@yahoo.com

Committee Member

Pat Adams
5916 Oak Bayou Lane
Ocean Springs, MS 39563
Phone: 228.872.3200
Email: rxdoc@bellsouth.net

Committee Member

Theresa Pate
1107 Ben Christopher Road
Columbus, MS 39702
Phone: 662.251.9552



Community Service

Department Objectives

1. **Objective:** Develop, implement and monitor community service activities that aid veterans, active-duty service members and their families.

Action Steps

- a. Activity suggestions to aid and/or assist veterans, active-duty service members and their families: rake/mow their lawn; rebuild the back porch; paint and clean their homes; prepare and deliver meals to their home; invite them to your post home for a family day of fun activities; adopt a deployed service member's family in the community and encourage other service organizations to do the same; help a veteran's family relocate; adopt an elderly veteran and/or family in the community or nursing home or veterans home; serve a meal at a veterans homeless shelter; organize a community-wide Day of Service to aid and assist veterans' and active-duty service members' families. Invite the community to join in your activities. The post home can serve as headquarters for the community service activity. Serve hot dogs, etc., to all volunteers.

Auxiliary-recognized national days of service for 2010-2011:

9/11 National Day of Service (September 11, 2010)
Make a Difference Day (October 23, 2010)
National Family Volunteer Day (November 20, 2010)
Veterans Day (November 11, 2010)
Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service (January 17, 2011)
National and Global Youth Service Day (April 15-17, 2011)
National Volunteer Week (April 17-23, 2011)
Any other day where you can gather a group of volunteers

2. **Objective:** Develop, implement, and monitor community service activities that promote the economic security of veterans, active-duty service members, and their families.

Action Steps

- a. Veteran Homelessness Prevention and Response—Plan community service activities to aid veterans, active duty service members, and their families who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless. Activities might include regular meal preparation for a homeless veteran program; sponsor or organize an educational or social event for a homeless veteran program; collect new or gently used clothes for homeless veterans; assemble hygiene and comfort kits for homeless veterans; organize a stand down; collect or purchase furnishings or household items for recently re-housed veterans; establish and administer a military and veteran assistance fund. Offer life skills education, spouse career advancement, personal financial management, relocation assistance and tax filing services.
- b. Job Fairs—Sponsor or organize a job fair to connect veterans and their families to employment opportunities. Collaborate with The American Legion department or post on job fair efforts. Help is available through TAL National Economic Commission.
- c. Department or Unit Innovative Activity—plan a community service activity of your choosing, taking into account the criteria that follows: (1) The activity is unique and/or meets the need of low-income or homeless veterans, active-duty service members, and/or their family members in your geographic area that would otherwise go unmet. (2) The activity will aid/help low-income or homeless veterans, active-duty service members, and/or their family members.

Community Service

Community Service Awards

Department Award

A citation will be presented to the Department Community Service Chairman in each division with the most outstanding overall promotion of the Community Service Program during the 2010-2011 administrative year. Each entry must include at least two of the designated areas of special emphasis. Entry must be in narrative form not to exceed 1,000 words and must include a completed copy of the annual report form. Entry must be postmarked by June 1, 2011, and sent to the National Division Chairman.

Unit Award

On the Department level, a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place award will be presented to deserving units, based on year-end reporting. Certificates of participation/appreciation will be given to each reporting Unit.

The most outstanding Unit Community Service program in the Department, based on year-end reports, will be submitted to the National Southern Division Community Service Chairman by June 1, 2011, for consideration for the Most Outstanding Overall Community Service program in the Southern Division. The Department's entry will be typewritten in narrative format, not to exceed 1,000 words and written by the selected unit, and should include pictures and newspaper articles, also provided by the selected Unit. The entry must include at least two of the designated areas of special emphasis listed in this Plan of Action.

Senior Volunteer of the Year Award

A senior member from each National Division will be honored for outstanding service in at least one activity emphasized in the Plan of Action. To be eligible for the award, volunteer service must be provided during the 2010-2011 administrative year. The application (attached) must be fully completed with required certification by Unit President or Secretary and a narrative of 300 to 500 words must be completed by the entrant. Unit entry must be postmarked by May 1, 2011, and sent to the Department Community Service Chairman. Each Department Chairman will select one Department winning entry and submit the entry to the Southern Division Chairman, postmarked by June 1, 2011. The Department winner will be named and awarded at State Convention 2011.

Junior Volunteer of the Year Award

A Junior member from each National division will be honored for outstanding service in at least one activity emphasized in the Plan of Action. To be eligible for the award, volunteer service must be provided during the 2010-2011 administrative year. The application (attached) must be fully completed with required certification by Unit President or Secretary and a narrative of 300 to 500 words must be completed by the entrant. Unit entry must be postmarked by May 1, 2011, and sent to the Department Community Service Chairman. Each Department Chairman will select one Department winning entry and submit the entry to the Southern Division Chairman, postmarked by June 1, 2011. The Department winner will be named and awarded at State Convention 2011.

Resources

1. www.legion-aux.org
2. www.mlkday.org
3. www.legion.org (search economic div)
4. serve.gov
5. See program page on www.legion-aux.org for additional resources.