

**2009-2010 Department of Mississippi
American Legion Auxiliary
TRY THIS!**

AMERICANISM

Contact a local radio station in your community. Ask them to allow your essay winners to come and read their essay as a recording. Then, ask the station to air these essays around Memorial Day and Fourth of July holiday. Be sure to have it announced with each reading aired that the essay contest is a program of the American Legion Auxiliary, Unit ___ in (town).

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

“Members Helping Members” coin fundraiser. Encourage members to save their loose change, bring it to each meeting and deposit them in a jar marked “AEF Fund.” Don’t forget to get change from the Legionnaires and SAL! That change adds up!

CAVALCADE OF MEMORIES

Ask members, past presidents and past department presidents (who are members of your unit) to donate items for the unit CoM. Publicize the donation at unit meetings and in the newspaper. Share department memorabilia from your Past Dept. President with the Department CoM to be housed at the Dept. Headquarters.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Don’t know how to find out about candidates for Youth Hero Award or Good Deed Award? Ask your local newspaper editor and/or reporters! Tell them about the awards and ask them to call you when they get word of heroic deeds! Also, talk to your local Sheriff or Police Chief—ask them to let you know as well. Form partnerships to recognize these youth!

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Can’t keep up with Community Service hours? Each month, pass out a sheet of paper and ask your members to write down what they volunteered to do in the community in the past month. Ask for hours and donations contributed. Keep for your year-end report!

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Does your unit not have a written C & B? Go online (www.missala.com) and get a sample C&B...add in your unit’s information and print. Send a copy first to the Dept. Chairman for review before allowing the membership to vote to accept. Once approved by the unit, be sure to send a final copy to the Dept. office for file. When in doubt, you may refer to the Unit Handbook, Dept. C & B, Roberts Rules of Order, Policies and Procedures manual; and Parliamentary Procedure manual.

EDUCATION

The “Give 10 to Education” is a simple way to support your schools. Items must be in multiples of 10. Got teachers in your unit? Ask them what they need or what other teachers may need. A citation will be issued to each unit who sends in the form, located on the department Web site at www.missala.com.

GIRLS STATE

Host a tea or dinner for your Girls State delegates either before or after their attendance. Invite the media, parents, past delegates, and school officials. Increase awareness of the program in your community.

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

In support of Dept. President's "Project Pocket Flags for Mississippi Military Installations," we ask each unit to purchase a set of Pocket Flags and have your juniors help you put them together. More information to come on this project for 2009-2010.

LEADERSHIP

The Leadership Correspondence course is now free and may be downloaded from our Dept. Web site at www.missala.com. It is located on the Plans of Action/Forms page. There are four parts: the course, the instruction sheet, the test, and the answer page. Print out a copy and make as many copies as you need to have your members take the course. The course is educational and informative—your members will learn more about the Auxiliary and appreciate its history. Don't forget your Juniors—there's a test for them, too.

LEGISLATIVE

A recognition certificate will be presented to each individual Unit member that forwards the National Legislative Chairman copies of responses received from congressional leaders as a result of their advocacy efforts; letters, emails, visits, etc. Unit Chairman, to make this easy, gather your letters throughout the year, include a cover letter with the name and number of the Unit, the name and address of the Unit Legislative Chairman or Unit representative, and send to the Department Chairman by May 1, 2010. **BE SURE THE NAME OF THE INDIVIDUAL UNIT MEMBER WHO RECEIVED THE RESPONSE IS ON EACH PIECE OF CORRESPONDENCE. IF THERE IS MORE THAN ONE RESPONSE PER PERSON, PAPERCLIP OR STAPLE THE PERSON'S CORRESPONDENCES TOGETHER.** Packets of correspondence/responses will be post-marked by June 1, 2010 and sent to the National Legislative Chairman.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Order a supply of Blue Star car window decals and present them to local families of deployed soldiers. Don't forget to recognize Gold Star Mothers in your community. Take pictures of presentations of both Blue Star and Gold Star and put them in the local newspapers so others will know of the family's sacrifice.

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY

On Valentine's Day, do something special for hospitalized veterans or servicewomen in your community or at a nearby VA hospital or veterans home.

POPPY

Follow the Dept. Plan of Action to participate in each of the Poppy contests—posters, corsages, and Miss Poppy. Exact rules are required for consideration. Publicize your Poppy activities to bring awareness to the Poppy program in your community.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Department is requesting each unit to provide an email address for the Department distribution list (to be used only by Dept. Office and officers—will not be shared with anyone else or with other businesses or organizations). Updates and latest news will be disseminated more quickly. The unit email designate must provide Unit President and/or Secretary with copies of Dept. transmissions immediately for action. Send email address to Dept. President Angela Kilcrease (angelakilcrease@bellsouth.net).

VA & R

If a VA Medical Center is in your area, contact the Representative of the facility to help you in becoming a registered volunteer and obtaining a regular assignment. This assignment can be as little as once a month and should be in an area that interests you. Help us increase our registered volunteers in the Department!