



American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wisconsin

Unit/County/District Chaplain and Music Plan of Action 2009-2010

Teresa Isensee, Department Chaplain

Purpose: Chaplains in all levels of our organization shall express, by word, song, and action, our founding principle of service to God and Country. Chaplains will encourage all Wisconsin Auxiliary members to celebrate diversity among people and faiths. Chaplains shall provide spiritual and emotional support when needed, with dignity and respect for the diversity of faith and traditions.

Objectives

1. **Objective:** Reconnect our members with the heart of God, the master of might, and promote our founding fathers' desire to create one nation under God.

Action Steps

- a. Chaplains are encouraged to help increase awareness and understanding of the actual wording and meaning of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, with regard to religious expression.

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

- b. Educate Auxiliary members and enhance their awareness of the diversity of all faiths and cultures.
 - c. Provide and promote emotional and spiritual support to The American Legion Family by sending cards, emails, prayers, etc to members of our family. Include a personal touch in each of your communications to bereaved, ill, homebound, and members in need of any encouraging word.
2. **Objective:** To reconnect with the purpose of the National organization as stated in the Preamble during the 2009-2010 Auxiliary year.

Action Steps

- a. Plan and promote joint services for spiritual dates of the American Legion Family and hold Memorial Services in your Unit/County/District to honor your deceased members.
- b. Highlight the work of influential women in your community and throughout the world who have enriched the lives of others and have embraced spiritual guidance. Include this information in newsletters and other correspondence, and send the information to the Department Chaplain.
- c. Build a spiritual relationship with Legion and SAL Chaplains, and together inspire the spiritual well being of our American Legion Family and our founding principle of service to God and Country.

3. **Objective:** To reconnect with the hearts of those within our organization by energizing them into spiritual service throughout the 2009-2010 Auxiliary year.

Action Steps

- a. District Chaplains are encouraged to forward monthly prayers and words of encouragement to their respective District President for the monthly District Newsletter.
- b. Department Chaplain will supply a Chaplains Corner via the “Wisconsin” publication for reference by all Wisconsin Auxiliary members, and as inspiration and encouragement for all our American Legion Family members.
- c. Department Chaplain will plan and host a “Paper Fair” display on Friday and a Chaplain and Music workshop on Saturday at the Fall Forum, October 16-17, 2009. Chaplain is willing to present the Chaplain and Music workshop at Unit, County or District meetings upon request.

Programs and Activities

All prayers and devotional thoughts must be non-denominational. Non-denominational means “not restricted to or associated with a religious denomination”.

1. Department President Gayle’s Prayer Book
 - a. Junior and Senior Auxiliary Members, Legionnaires, and SAL are encouraged to submit their favorite prayers, poems, inspirational songs, thoughts and reflections.
 - b. For younger members submit pictures relating to President Gayle’s theme.
2. Grace Cards can be used for placing on banquet tables or may be given to anyone needing a prayer before a meal. The card folds in half to be placed on a table, and includes “before meal” prayers for Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish faiths. Grace cards can be ordered Order through American Legion Emblem Sales Item #755.110 (pkg of 100 for \$2.95).
 - a. Use Grace Cards at all American Legion Family sponsored dinners.
 - b. Distribute Grace Cards as an education tool for our youth
 - c. Use at home for family prayer before meals
3. Share experiences, events and success stories
 - a. Unit/County/District members are asked to send information regarding the first half of their year by December 15, 2009 for the Department Chaplain to compile and send the mid-year report to the National Chaplain.
 - b. Communicate throughout the year via letters, email or a phone call, with the Department Chaplain Teresa. Share stories, ask questions, and support the spiritual faith in our organization.
 - c. Send information to the Department Chaplain by May 1, 2010 along with the Department Annual Report, listing the three objectives and what action steps your Unit/County/District completed during this Auxiliary Year.

Chaplain Contact Information

Department Chaplain	Teresa Isensee	email: isensee@centurytel.net
	PO Box 145	Home: (715) 667-3528
	Boyd, WI 54726	Cell: (715) 577-5259

(Contact only if other resources fail to answer your questions)

National Chaplain	Bev Wolff	email: Chaplain@legion-aux.org
National Headquarters	Stefani Richards	email: srichards@legion-aux.org

Resources

1. Preamble:

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the constitution of the United States of America;

To maintain law and order;

To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;

To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations during the Great Wars;

To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;

To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

To make right the master of might;

To promote peace and goodwill on earth;

To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy;

To participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion;

To consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

2. The American Legion Family Websites:

<http://www.legion.org>

National American Legion

<http://www.sal.legion.org>

National Sons of the American Legion

<http://www.legion-aux.org>

National American Legion Auxiliary

<http://www.wilegion.org>

Wisconsin American Legion

<http://www.wisal.org>

Wisconsin Sons of the American Legion

<http://www.amlegionauxwi.org>

Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary

<http://emblem.legion.org/>

American Legion Emblem Sales

3. Chaplains Prayer Book – Order through American Legion Emblem Sales Item #355.111

4. Unit Handbook – Order through American Legion Emblem Sales Item #355.200

5. Chaplains Prayer Book Manual of The American Legion – Order through American Legion Emblem Sales Item #755.111

6. Service to God and Country Handbook for Chaplains – Order through American Legion Emblem Sales Item #755.112

7. HomeFront magazine – Every paid Senior Auxiliary member receives a copy of this publication quarterly.

8. American Legion Magazine – Delivered to every paid Legion member

9. Legion Dispatch Newsletter – You can order a subscription on the National American Legion website: <https://join.legion.org/magazines/?mag=Dispatch>

10. Grace Cards – Order through American Legion Emblem Sales Item #755.110 (pkg of 100 for \$2.95).