



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN
2018-2019 Program Action Plan**

**Becky Mueller, Department Chaplain
N7737 Miller Road, Black Creek WI 54106
clarenceandbecky@aol.com ♦ 920-464-0320**

Purpose:

American Legion Auxiliary chaplains will express by words and actions, our founding principle of service to God and Country and encourage all members to celebrate diversity among people and faiths. Chaplains provide spiritual and emotional guidance when needed or requested, always sending dignity and respect to the occasion. Chaplains promote civility and loving kindness toward all members of the ALA.

Programs and Activities:

It should be the objective of the chaplain to:

1. Pray for the American Legion Auxiliary, its members and leaders, for success in carrying out our mission. (*Open and close meetings with prayer. Send cards to the American Legion Family members.*)
2. Guide members through prayer experiences that are appropriate for the situation. (*Lead prayers for invocations and benedictions at official meetings. Participate in Auxiliary memorial services for deceased members including Draping the Charter. Mentor Junior chaplain. Explain why things are done the way they are--prayer before the pledge, history etc. Recommend educational materials that promote a spirit of unity and love. Nurture a culture of goodwill. Present POW-MIA flag and prayer.*)
3. Be the spiritual ambassador of the organization while keeping all prayers and devotional thoughts non-denominational. (Non-denominational means: “not restricted to or associated with a religious denomination”.) (*Host a workshop on nurturing a culture of goodwill. Visit members and veterans in nursing homes, hospitals and those home bound. Volunteer in church and community projects. Use tools or resources at meetings. Make a prayer and devotional book.*)
4. Be the “prayer warriors” of our organization – prayer for the success of our programs as we strive to fulfill our mission. (*Special emphasis this year – Homeless Veterans – pray for them by name ie: that John’s job interview goes well; that Sally’s new landlord waives some or all of the deposit; that Harry’s drug therapy works; that Jane gets some restful sleep without PTSD attacks; that dignity and respect are given to all; remember to thank them for their service and put “feets” to your prayers and be the one to make a difference in their lives.*) I am convinced we need to call on our God to fight this battle for us. Stay in the trenches with each other.
5. Lead or attend with your unit, county or district a POW/MIA ceremony and the 4 Chaplains program.

Through newsletters, emails and other means of communication, the chaplain should:

1. Provide and promote emotional and spiritual support to the entire American Legion Family by sending emails, prayers and words of encouragement to members throughout the administrative year.

2. Promote our founding fathers' desire to create one nation under God.
3. The chaplain is responsible for all invocations, benedictions and memorial services for deceased members at official meetings.
4. Recommend educational materials that promote a spirit of unity and love.
5. Encourage all members to be kind and loving toward each other. Practice the Golden Rule with everyone.
6. District chaplains will communicate with the Department Chaplain and the Unit Chaplains to encourage growth and understanding between all members.

Chaplains will report activities to the Department Chaplain for her mid-year and end-of-year report to the National Chaplain. She will submit a narrative report outlining the activities of the units, counties or district she represents.

Chaplains will encourage members at all levels to submit prayers, inspirational thoughts or quotes for the Department President's prayer book. This can be done at any time during the year. They should also encourage the creation of prayer or devotional books at all levels of the organization.

Chaplains should always foster a culture of goodwill. Host a workshop when needed or requested. Lead by example.

Encourage chaplains at all levels to drape the charter for deceased members, hold a memorial service, hold a 4 Chaplains remembrance, present the POW-MIA flag and prayer at meetings. (please remember to report these activities to Dept. Chaplain. You may include tributes for deceased members to be included in the Department Prayer Book.)

Visit members in their homes, rehab centers or hospitals. Send cards or notes.

Include music in your meetings. Encourage patriotic music. Work fun music into meetings when appropriate. Singing the National Anthem or God Bless America for example are fulfilling this program's objectives. Report it.

Mentor Junior chaplains.

Prayer Book Contest:

Unit Chaplains are encouraged to create a book of prayers, inspirational poems and reflections, drawings and pictures to share with members in her Unit. Prayers are an important part of our daily life. Each Unit Member, including Juniors, should be encouraged to share prayers, poems, reflections, drawings and pictures for the prayer book and/or sent for the Department President's Prayer Book. Unit Prayer Books may be submitted for the Department Prayer Book contest.

Guidelines:

1. Book A plain three (3) ring loose-leaf binder.
2. Cover Must have an Auxiliary emblem or seal on the cover.
3. Contents:
 - A. Use 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper
 - B. May be typed, hand written or printed
 - C. Include dedication on the first page.
 - D. Pages may be illustrated with pictures, drawings or graphics.

- E. Please DO NOT cut prayers from the Auxiliary magazine or the Wisconsin Chaplain's Corner to use in this prayer book.
 - F. May use sleeve protectors if desired.
4. Categories:
- A. Original prayers/poems--signed by member submitting
 - B. Interfaith prayers--favorite prayers not composed by Unit members. Provide the name of the author and source and include the name of the member submitting the prayer.
 - C. Devotional thoughts and personal quotations. These could include thoughts promoting a culture of goodwill. Provide the name of the author and source and include the name of the member submitting the prayer.
 - D. Scripture passages--give book of the Bible, chapter and verse or other religious scripture sources. Note significance to you.
5. Last Page:
- A. Unit number, name, city and District number.
 - B. Number of Senior & Junior members in the Unit.
 - C. Name and signature of Unit Chaplain (signed about typed name).
6. Submit:
- Mail Unit Prayer Book by May 31, 2019 to
Department Chaplain
Becky Mueller
N7737 Miller Road
Black Creek WI 54106

Award: A citation will be presented to each Unit Chaplain submitting a Prayer Book along with a small gift for the outstanding prayer book. **This is a Department contest ONLY. There will be no District or National competition.**

Additional Resources You Can Use:

Auxiliary Chaplains Prayer Book (355.111) available from Emblem Sales
Chaplain's Prayer Book (755.11) available from Emblem Sales
American Legion Auxiliary Unit Guide Book (355.200) available from Emblem Sales
National Chaplain's Plan of Action (found on alaforveterans.org website)
National Constitution, By-Laws, and Standing Rules for the ALA (355.202) Emblem Sales
Auxiliary Chaplains on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/alachaplains

National Chaplain:

Dr. Deborah Blanch, Department of Virginia
deborahblanchnatauxiliary@yahoo.com
757-288-9757