



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY - DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN Program Action Plan - Chaplain - 2021-2022

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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 lending 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. Make visits to funeral homes and participate in Auxiliary memorial services for deceased members). Drape the charter and/or perform memorial services. Mentor Junior chaplains 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 (when allowed) and those home bound. Volunteer in church and community projects. Use tools or resources at meetings. Make a prayer and devotional book.

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.

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 the mid-term and end-of-year report to the National Chaplain. They will submit a narrative report outlining the activities of the units, counties or district she represents. Deadlines for Unit reports to Department Chaplain will be November 15, 2021 for mid-year and April 15, 2022 for year-end reports.

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. Hosting a workshop when needed or requested.

Encourage chaplains at all levels to drape the charter for deceased members, hold a memorial service, hold a 4 Chaplains remembrance, and present the POW-MIA flag and prayer at meetings.

Visit members in their homes, rehab centers or hospitals (when allowed). Send cards or notes as appropriate.

Include music in your meetings. Encourage patriotic music. Work fun music into meetings when appropriate.

Mentor Junior chaplains.

Prayer Book Contest:

Unit Chaplains are encouraged to create a book or prayers, inspirational poems and reflections, drawings and pictures to share with members in their 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 send 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 white 8 ½ 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.
 - G. Pages may be protected with cellophane or clear plastic.

4. Categories:
 - A. Original prayers – signed by the member submitting (Senior and Junior)
 - 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 source.
5. Last page:
 - A. Unit number, name, city and District member.
 - B. Number of Senior members and Junior members in the Unit.
 - C. Name and signature of Unit Chaplain (signed above typed name).
6. Submit:

Mail Unit Prayer Book by May 31, 2022 to Department Chaplain:
Donna Jensen
6936 N. 86th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53224

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: (available from Emblem Sales)

- American Legion Auxiliary Chaplains Prayer Book (355.111)
- The American Legion Chaplain's Prayer Book (755.111)
- American Legion Auxiliary Unit Guide Book (355.200) - on ALA Dept of WI website (amlegionauxwi.org) Additional Program Information/General Info (top of page)
- ALA Manual of Ceremonies - on ALA Dept of WI website (amlegionauxwi.org) Additional Program Information/General Info (top of page)
- Bible – (many versions available on-line and from Emblem Sales)

National Chaplain:

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