



Auxiliary Emergency Fund Joanie Krantz ~ Chairman

What is this program?

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund provides temporary financial assistance to eligible members during times of financial crisis or weather-related emergencies and natural disasters and promotes awareness and knowledge of the program.

Why do we have it?

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund was established in 1969, it was funded initially through a generous legacy gift from Auxiliary member Helen Colby Small of Burlington, Wisconsin. The AEF is now able to continue to grant assistance through voluntary contributions. The Auxiliary promotes awareness of the fund, disseminates information about the application process, and solicits donations from units, departments, and individual members in order to continue its availability as a resource to help members in certain dire states. In 1981, the AEF program was expanded to include a fund to help members who needed to support themselves due to unexpected life-changing circumstances such as death or illness of a spouse, divorce, or desertion. With continuous generosity of our unit members, the funds allowed a wider use of the benefits to our members and it continues today. The first AEF grant amount was \$150 and today the maximum grant amount is \$2400 that our members may be eligible to receive. This grant cannot be used for accumulated debts or medical expenses.

Information to share at your Unit meetings:

Auxiliary Emergency Fund brochure and frequently asked question sheets are available online at www.ALAforVeterans.org. Please acquire them through the department mailing or from the website for your first Unit meeting or have a special “Members helping Members”, night at your local post. Not only is this a great time for an AEF fundraiser, but it gives you the opportunity to share information what makes a member eligible to receive help from the AEF. Have membership applications available and sign up new members during the event.

AEF applications can be acquired from your Unit President, Department Office or online at www.mnala.org. go to Forms then ALA Emergency Fund Application. You may apply if you have a financial hardship and need help for shelter, food or utilities and no other source of aid is readily available.

For those who suffer a natural disaster complete the application online at www.alaforveterans.org go to members only and login (you must login to reach these forms, so make sure you have your membership card) by submitting it directly to National Headquarters, this will expedite your request.

In extreme circumstances you may request help for educational training for those lacking the necessary skills for employment or to upgrade competitive workforce skills.

There is also a Minnesota Disaster Fund available through the Department of Minnesota Auxiliary and the forms can be found at www.mnala.org under PROGRAMS, Auxiliary Emergency Fund, AEF-MN Disaster Fund-Application.pdf

Additional Resources:

1. www.ALforVeterans.org (for additional resources and descriptions)
2. www.legion.org
3. www.opertionhomefront.net (general financial assistance for military families)
4. www.211.org (referral program for local help with food, housing and employment)
5. www.fema.gov (disaster assistance)
6. www.redcross.org (disaster assistance)
7. www.fns.usda.gov/snap/ (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)
8. www.liheap.ncat.org (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)
9. The AEF Committee Facebook group, search “Aux Emergency Fund”
10. Your national Auxiliary Emergency Fund committee members (see AEF program page on the national website or Annual Supplement for contact information)

HOW YOUR DISTRICT, UNIT AND MEMBERS CAN RAISE FUNDS

1. The Department has a Silent Auction at Fall Conference where Units and members donate new or gently used items, theme baskets, \$1 grab bags and, etc. Members can volunteer their time to help set-up and run the Silent Auction. You can also ask local businesses to donate items or gift cards.
2. Have a Silent Auction or fundraiser at your District Mid-Winter Conference.
3. Your Unit may decide to have a special fundraiser such as a potato dumpling dinner, spaghetti, luncheon, or rummage or bake sale.
4. Your Unit does not have to have a specific fundraiser for the AEF; a donation can be made from a fundraiser you Unit participates in during the year.
5. At Unit meetings the President could ask a question i.e. Do you have your garden planted? If you say yes, donate a nickel, if you say no, donate a dime. Each meeting the question changes.
6. Pass out bottles of water to Unit members and ask them to bring them to the meeting in March filled with change they have dropped in throughout the year.
7. Eat for a Cause – Contact a local restaurant and ask them to set aside a night where a percentage of the sales be donated to the AEF.
8. Your Unit could donate in honor of a deceased member.
9. When donating using Auxiliary gambling funds. Their check should be made out to American Legion Auxiliary Dept. of MN and put (A-21) in the memo.
10. When donating using Legion gambling funds. Their check should be made out to American Legion Foundation and put (A-21) in the memo.
11. Monetary donations from the Unit and members are welcome. These donations are to be reported on the year-end report. Personal monetary donations of \$50 or more will receive and Auxiliary Emergency Fund “Members Helping Members” pin and a certificate.

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND REPORTING

Mid-Year Reports

Mid-Year reports reflect the program work of units in the department and are intended as an opportunity for mid-year correction. Each department AEF chairman is required to submit a narrative report by **January 5, 2020** to the division AEF chairman, plus copy the national AEF chairman.

Year-End Reports

Annual reports reflect the program work of units in the department and may result in a national award for participants if award requirements are met. Each department AEF chairman is required to submit a narrative report by May 15, 2020 to the division AEF chairman, plus copy the national AEF chairman. Members and units follow their department's protocol and deadlines for report submissions at the department level.

If you have any question, please call, text or email. I will be more than happy to help you in any way I can. Thank you for all you do to support our Veterans, their families and our members.

“REMEMBER – HONOR – SERVE” makes a big difference in the lives of our members.

Joanie Krantz

Department Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman

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