

American Legion Auxiliary Celebrates a Century of “Service Not Self”

The American Legion Auxiliary will be turning 100 on November 10, 2019. The milestone celebration comes a few months after the American Legion celebrated its centennial in March.

The American Legion was founded after the end of WWI in Paris, France. In September of that year, the United State Congress chartered the American Legion. Several Women’s organization wanted to become the official affiliate of the Legion. Instead of associating with an existing organization, the Legion decided to create a new organization with the women most closely associated with the men of the Legion. The “Women’s Auxiliary of The American Legion” was founded at the American Legion’s second convention on November 10, 1919. Held in Minneapolis Minnesota

Since their establishments a century ago, the goals of both organizations have been to help veterans and their families. Today, The American Legion has more than 2 million members the American Legion Auxiliary boasts more than 6000,000 members who spend millions of volunteer hours serving our mission every year.

The First National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary was held in Kansas City November 1-2, 1921 with 300 women representing 42 states. Dr. Helen Hughes Hielscher, Mankato, MN was elected Temporary Chairman. At this convention the National Constitution was adopted, National Officers were elected, and the Name of the organization changed to “The American Legion Auxiliary.” Also, adopted was our poppy flower as a memorial flower.

Since then Minnesota has had four National Presidents

Tess Carlson 1934 -1935

Ruth Hutten 1947 -1948

Evelyn Starr 1986-1987

Kris Nelson 2011-2012

The American Legion Auxiliary’s 100th Anniversary is a time to celebrate the achievements of the last century but also look ahead to the next century. A new generation of veterans and their families will depend on the American Legion Auxiliary.

Happy 100th American Legion Auxiliary!

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Information taken from National Web Site, Legion 50 and National American Legion Auxiliary History Vol 1.