



American Legion Auxiliary

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Leadership

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Greetings to you all!

“Back to the Basics” workshops will be held this year. My goal as the Leadership Chairman is to answer questions and to ensure all members, whether you want to learn more about the ALA or are a leader, attain information about our history, programs, and basic information about the American Legion Auxiliary. Watch for more information in the next Unit mailings.

I encourage all members to participate in workshops throughout the department, the Northwestern Division (Mission Training/Junior Meeting, Oct. 19th in Sioux Falls, SD), and the National Convention. Ask questions, become knowledgeable about our organization, and distribute the information you receive. We all can learn from each other and we can have fun along the way!

The following is a Special 100th Anniversary Program Fact from the
National American Legion Auxiliary:

Throughout our history, there have been many outstanding leaders who helped make this great organization what it is today. In the early days, our members worked together with The American Legion to launch activities in the fields of rehabilitation, child welfare and Americanism. Over the years, leaders from units in small rural towns to those in large metropolitan cities worked diligently to establish programs that we still have today. The Poppy program, Christmas Gift Shops and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation are still some of the strongest programs we have, thanks in no small part to the great leaders of the past.

It wasn't until the mid-1960's that the Auxiliary considered having a formal leadership committee. In 1964, the Finance Committee approved funding for the first Leadership School. The Leadership Development Conference was held at national headquarters in July of the same year, conducted by three Indiana University professors from the graduate school of business. This project underwent a new phase for the 1966-67 administrative year when a Leadership Training Course Director was named. A series of courses to train Department leaders was instituted. Shortly after, Leadership became a national committee, with a chairman and vice chairman. Leadership training and classes have taken on many forms over the years, including our current Mission Trainings.

As we *Celebrate our Auxiliary Centennial*, we hope more members will become interested in taking leadership roles so we can continue our legacy of service into our next hundred years.

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