



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Minnesota
State Veterans Service Building
20 W 12th St. #314 St Paul MN 55155
Telephone 651-224-7634 Fax 651-224 5243
Toll Free 1-888-217-9598
Email—deptoffice@mnala.org

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND September/October 2018

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund was started in 1969 when a generous bequest of \$106,000.00 was received from Auxiliary member Helen Colby Small. Thanks to the generous donations of our members, this program continues to flourish. Over the years this temporary emergency assistance grant has helped numerous struggling members in need of food, shelter, or utilities for their families.

Share at your Unit meetings.

Take time this year at a Unit meeting to discuss the Auxiliary Emergency Fund and pass out the Auxiliary Emergency fund brochures. Write up an article for your Unit newsletter explaining how to help sustain the program and explain the financial help available for members with 3 consecutive years of membership or more and how to apply for assistance.

We never know when tragedy may strike such as a weather-related disaster but be sure we will continue to use our imaginations for fundraisers and our motto “Members Helping Members” to ensure this fund will be there for our members in their time of need. For those who suffer a natural disaster completing the application online at www.alaforveterans.org (you must login to reach these forms, so make sure you have your membership card) and submitting it directly to National Headquarters will expedite your request.

Applications can be acquired from your Unit President, Department Office or online at mnala.org, under Forms you will find the 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.

In extreme circumstances you may request help for educational training for those lacking the necessary skills for employment.

How Units and Members can help.

Here are some examples of how our members and units have raised funds for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

The Department has a Silent Auction at Fall Conference where Units and members donate new or gently used items, theme baskets, \$1 grab bags etc. and volunteer their time to help set-up and run the Silent Auction.

Some of the Districts have a Silent Auction at their Mid-Winter, maybe all the Districts could participate by having a Silent Auction.

At the Unit meeting the President asks a question like do you have your garden planted? If you say yes you donate a nickel, if you say no, you donate a dime. Each meeting the question changes. You might be surprised at how fast that change adds up.

Your Unit may decide to have a special fundraiser such as a Pork and Dumpling Dinner or a Spaghetti dinner, a luncheon, or maybe you would like to provide a pillow cleaning service.

Pass out bottles of water to unit members and ask them to bring them to the unit meeting in March filled with change they have dropped in throughout the year.

Your unit does not have to have a specific fundraiser for the AEF, but a donation could be made from a fundraiser your unit does have during the year.

Your Unit could donate in honor of a deceased member.

All monetary donations both Unit and personal should be reported on the year-end report. Personal monetary donations of \$50.00 or more will receive an Auxiliary Emergency Fund "Members helping Members" pin and a certificate.

Stop in at the Fall Conference Silent Auction

If someone from your unit is attending Fall Conference have them stop by the Silent Auction and pick up the revised Year End Report form for your Unit to record your donations and volunteer hours through-out the year while they are fresh in your memory.

Submit a Unit Mid-Year report

Use the information from the unit report to submit your Unit mid-year report directly to the Department Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman by December 15th, 2018, let her know how your members and unit have supported the AEF from April 1st, 2018 – December 15th, 2018 so she may turn in a report for National.

Submit a Unit Year-End report

Use the information from the unit report to submit your Unit Year-End report to the Department by April 15th 2019, let everyone know how your members and unit have supported the AEF from April 1st, 2018 – March 31st, 2019. It is so important to let everyone know how we have supported our members by reporting your donations and volunteer hours to Department for our report too National. Let's have a 100% reporting this year.

If you have any questions, please do-not hesitate to call, text or email. I will be more than happy to help you anyway I can. Thank you for all you do for our Veterans, their families and our members.

Let's all make our Stars Shine Bright for our members.

Teri Richardson
Department Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman
Call: Hm 651-429-3885
Call or Text: Cell 612-799-1905
Email: wildwwitch@msn.com