



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Minnesota
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Remember the Past as we Reach for the Future Strategic Planning - Focus on Change.

What a Blessing I have found in the American Legion Auxiliary the past 5 years. Many new friends and a great feeling of family.

As family goes, we all see the ups and downs, agreements and disagreements. My biggest sadness is when I hear “We can’t do that” or “We have never done it that way” and “It just won’t work”. If we don’t try for sure it will not work.

In the past year in preparation for our 100th Birthday I decided to research where we came from. It started with finding a goldmine of scrapbooks in the closet at my Post in Forest Lake. They were as early as 1932, very tattered and worn. Some of these were presented at the 3rd District Convention in 2018. This got me thinking over the summer and as I started my year as a Unit President, I decided to try something new. Oh yes there was opposition, but it was not going to get in the way. *Here are some of the things we have done;*

We open every meeting with memory from the Past found in a scrapbook

A Veteran or Community Service Project is worked on each quarter.

We include everyone at the meeting - I go around and ask each person a question or delegate a portion of the meeting, so they are all involved.

Our Chaplain began sending out “We Miss You” cards to members that have not come to meetings in a while. She chooses 6 to 8 each month and includes a few items that have changed in our meetings or what activities are coming up.

We encourage our ladies wear their ALA blue patches wherever they go and not to be shy about talking to people about what we do, and, in the end, this will help increase membership.

At our last meeting one of the ladies asked if we couldn’t start to have a Saturday meeting once a month or every other month to see if we could include those not able to make the evening meeting each month. We are going to try this over the next few months.

There is a lunch gathering once a month open to everyone in the Unit and they go somewhere different each month.

(over)

These are just a small start to some things we are working on. Once we started to reach for change, I found all the ladies have ideas they are interested in wanting to do. Change is the only way to keep our organization moving forward. Open your hearts and your minds and welcome in change, what you find will be amazing.

Today I encourage you to search for your Unit History and start to look back over time at what worked and what the women loved to do and try some of it today. Our scrapbooks include events from not only the Unit in Forest Lake but also National, State and District events. It is so easy to see they were focused on "Service not Self."

If you have questions or would be interested in some ideas feel free to reach out to our Department President and or Secretary, your District executive team or you can contact me. I am always willing to lend an ear to see what we can come up with.

Praying you all enjoy very Blessed Days ahead

Cavalene Regan

2nd Vice President

3rd District. MN