



# Auxiliary Communique



## Iowa's Roses

### President Norma Hawkins

and lots of fun. Thank you for a job well done. This was a result of positive teamwork and dedication.

I would like to thank the officers of the Past District Presidents luncheon for the excellent food, fellowship, and Memorial Service. I would like to thank the Department American Legion family office staff for their hard work in preparing for and helping at the Mid-Winter Conference. I want to thank our American Legion family for taking time to attend Mid-Winter Conference. The attendance was fabulous.

I know everyone that attended the Auxiliary session remembers the "bloomer award." Saturday evening we had the first joint Past Department Commanders, Past Department Presidents, and Past Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commanders banquet together in the Iowa Room. We had a great time visiting with old friends and making new ones.

Sunday morning we had the opportunity of listening to our Girls Nation Senators and Boys Nation Senators. We had the opportunity and privilege of listening to the leading candidate for National Commander Dave Rehbein. After the joint session we listened to the three area oratorical speakers. Every time I listen to our youth speak I am so impressed of what they can accomplish. I have "faith" in our youth.

February 27, 2008, Creative Arts Competition Knoxville VA Medical Center.

March 1, 2008, 7<sup>th</sup> District Junior Conference at Shenandoah. Junior President Sarah did a terrific job conducting the meeting. Our future looks bright.

I have attended many American Legion birthdays and County meetings. I would like to thank everyone for the invitation and courtesies extended to my husband and me. I would like to say "Thank you for your service to our country and our organization." Each Birthday was celebrated in a unique way. Everyone did an excellent job.

We have great leaders in the state of Iowa. We are proud of you.

March 1, 2008, American Legion Birthday Toledo.

March 4, 2008, American Legion Birthday Keystone.

March 6, 2008, American Legion Birthday Marshalltown.

March 8, 2008, American Legion Birthdays at Ottumwa and Bellevue. I'm sorry I missed these two but the flu bug hit me hard.

March 10, 2008, American Legion Birthday Clermont.

March 11, 2008, American Legion Birthday Varina.

March 15, 2008, American Legion Birthday Ames.

March 17, 2008, American Legion Birthday Traer.

March 19, 2008, American Legion Birthday Hawkeye.

March 20, 2008, Story County Meeting Story City.

March 21, 2008, American Legion Birthday Durant.

March 22, 2008, American Legion Birthday Osage.

March 24, 2008, Johnson County Meeting Lone Tree.

March 25, 2008, Lynn County Meeting Mount Vernon.

March 26, 2008, American Legion Birthday Persia.

March 27, 2008, American Legion Birthday Keswick.

On Friday March 28, 2008 we left Des Moines for the Awareness Assembly in Washington D.C. at 6:50 a.m.

On Saturday and Sunday March 29 and 30, many Auxiliary members from Iowa attended the "A New Day is Dawning" workshop for strategic planning. This workshop can be summed up in a few words. We need to change and work together as a team. We need to increase our computer knowledge to get this information faster through email. We will not leave any member behind, if you prefer this information can be mailed to you.

On Sunday afternoon we helped with the reception for Dave Rehbein, leading candidate for National Commander. Sunday evening March 30 and Monday morning March 31, members from Iowa attended the National Executive Committee Meeting. The mission and vision statements were approved plus the budget for

strategic planning for the rest of National President Jan's year.

On Monday at noon Iowa members attended the Public Spirit Award luncheon. I had the opportunity to be sitting at a special table for you. We heard from the following Public Spirit Award recipients: Marian Chirichella, Angels of Mercy; Karen Degner, Military Families Connect; Karen Grimord, Landstuhl Hospital Care Project; and Elizabeth Johnston, Mothers of Military Support. Wow! These ladies were fantastic. After these awards we found out we were still first in Category A, which have 30,000 members and above.

I am honored to continue to wear this lovely silver football pin for you. It was our roses (our members) who have worked so diligently on membership and I thank you. We only need about 2,200 roses and rosebuds (members) to be goal. We want to move forward with "faith." We can. We will. Around 2:30 p.m. we boarded buses for our trip to Arlington National Cemetery. The changing of the guards was very solemn and impressive. We also watched the wreath laying by National President Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. I've seen pictures of the Arlington Cemetery but never realized the quantity of graves and tombstones.

Tuesday morning, April 1 we attended the joint Legislative Rally session. We had lunch in the Iowa hospitality room with a short meeting. We went to the hill. After visiting with our senators and representatives I concluded that they were for helping the veterans and helping our veterans fight terrorism. We rode the metro and this was my first time. I decided it was safer to take a cab.

Wednesday morning was session II and we learned about what is new in the 2008 National Convention city of Phoenix, Arizona. The Poppy corsage awards were given. \$15,098.00 was raised from the poppy corsage contest which will go to the National Veteran's Creative Arts Festival.

Kris Nelson talked about the Special Healing Fields Flag. Marion Sakowitz spoke about the OneSource Outreach program and

site. MG Craig Wheldon talked about the Army Community Covenant. This program encourages our organization to align with local army bases. They saved the best to last. We had a panel of nine teen Operation Military Kids who talked about the issues they faced as military teen kids. They talked about their experiences when a parent was deployed, how they handled moving every three years, and how they felt when their parent was deployed.

April 3, 2008, American Legion Birthday Stratford.

April 5, 2008, 4<sup>th</sup> District Conference Clermont.

Norma did a lovely job conducting the Conference. Tooter Baker took my place at 9<sup>th</sup> District Conference at Akron and I thank her.

April 6, 2008, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Junior Conference Denver. 3<sup>rd</sup> District Junior President Amber did a fantastic job conducting the meeting. Our future is in great hands.

April 8, 2008, Wapello County Meeting Eddyville.

April 9, 2008, Tama County Government Day. Tama County American Legion family did a terrific job, the students learned what government was all about, and it was very impressive.

Many units are in process of putting the finishing touches on their poppy distribution. We will celebrate Memorial Day the last of May. Let us pay tribute to our deceased veterans for their service to our country. Remember our veterans have given up everything so we can and continue to enjoy our freedoms.

In closing this travelogue I want to say thank you again for your dedication, support, and perseverance on our programs, especially membership for our American Legion family. You are important and precious to the greatest patriotic organization in the nation.



I know they say it is Spring, but Winter just doesn't want to go away. It is time for our travelogue. Please come join me.

I attended the *Salute to Veterans* at Knoxville, on February 13, 2008. On February 14, 2008, I had the opportunity to attend the *Salute to Veterans* at Sioux Falls, South Dakota. I was touched when we handed Valentines to our veterans and thanked them for their service to our Country.

On Thursday afternoon, February 21, 2008, after the snowplow went through, I left for Des Moines for Mid-Winter Conference.

Friday morning and afternoon were filled with meetings. On Friday night our American Legion family held a joint session. The Membership Unity Award was presented to Fourth District Commander Richard Barnes and Fourth District President Norma Hapgood. Central Division National Vice President Shirley Jones and National Commander Marty Conatser gave their very informative addresses. They were both from Illinois. We also had the privilege of listening to Rick Monday. What a great person and speaker.

Saturday morning we had the Programs Fair. I would like to commend The American Legion Programs Director, Kathy Nees, for a well planned Programs Fair. I want to say thank you to The American Legion family Programs Fair chairmen and committee members for their excellent displays.

After the Programs Fair, we had the opportunity to attend the presentations on our Auxiliary programs given by the Auxiliary Program Chairman's and Committee Members. The Junior rosebuds presented a skit and shared the crafts they made. The program reports were excellent, informative,