



## **American Legion Auxiliary Department of Colorado**

Monthly News Letter  
November 2018

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**Happy Holidays from our family to yours!**

The newsletter will return in January

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### **Don't Forget our Veterans this Holiday Season**

Visit our [website](#) for more information on this event



**Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center**  
1700 North Wheeling Street, Aurora CO 80045

**VA Christmas Gift Shop**

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Looking for an opportunity to serve our veterans and get paid? Our Secretary/Treasurer's position will be open in 2019 so we are starting now to find the right person - maybe that is you! Interested? Click [here](#) for the job description. Click [here](#) for the application.

Please send applications and resumes to Department Headquarters.  
To send via US Mail:

**American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Colorado  
7465 East 1st Avenue Suite D  
Denver, CO 80230.**

For email, please send to [dept-sec@alacolorado.com](mailto:dept-sec@alacolorado.com).



## Message from President Laurie Kuntz

It has been an adventurous year so far. We traveled North to South, East to West, Corner to Corner during Fall Conferences. A HUGE shout to those that took the time to come and spend with us. We had an amazing time and adventure. We were able to visit the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Center and the Grand Junction VA. They are both striving to be a better resource for our countries female veterans. We were able to do a check in our Community Living Centers across the state. We should always be taking the time to have conversations with the residents and appreciating their service. What a blessing it was to hear so many great stories.

There are so many things happening in our organization that we all should be proud of. Units across the state are hosting Stand Downs to support homeless and veterans in need. In addition, Units are hosting a variety of events to raise money to donate back to programs and support local programs. They are hosting craft fairs, Santa visits, drawings, bingo, poker tournaments, chili cookoffs, Gala's, and much more. During fall conferences we had the opportunity to share with each other all the great things they are doing.

Why is this important? Sometimes we get stuck in the this is "what we have always done". It is time to start thinking of what else we can do. By working outside the cookie cutter we begin to see a different road to getting better results. Can we find new members this way? Absolutely.

Key to finding new members is to be excited about what you do and share that excitement. Invite friends to come and join your for something. NOT recruit them but to come and check it out. Share some of the excitement you have. Keep the baggage out (you know what I mean).

Remember the reason you became a member, inspire others. Years ago, I attend a convention and heard the **Starfish Story**. That story has stuck with me and been a constant reminder.

### ***"Original Story by Loren Eisley***

One day a man was walking along the beach, when he noticed a boy hurriedly picking up and gently throwing things into the ocean.

Approaching the boy, he asked, "Young man, what are you doing?"

The boy replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die."

The man laughed to himself and said, "Don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make any difference!"

After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said ...

***"I made a difference to that one."***



## **Children and Youth**

### **Terri L. Clinton, PDC, Chairman 2018-19**

I think sometimes we get confused about the depth of our Pillars, and limit the breadth and scope of the tremendous outreach to our community that our forefathers intended. A couple of months ago, we were approached by another 501c3, the Miracle Party, an organization that supports families with children who have blood disorders or cancer. The Legion and Auxiliary participated in this annual fundraiser for the last two years and, after leading the Department as Commander for the Legion and having such a positive experience working with my Auxiliary President and Detachment Commander, I really wasn't prepared to deal with the politics between the entities.

Our Children and Youth Pillar was developed in support of all children - not just the children of veterans. It's the same with our Americanism Pillar - we don't go into schools and only teach the children of veterans how to fold the flag. That type of thinking narrows our ability to promote our programs and, where would our Nation be without the amazing type of youth who participate in Jr. Shooting, Boys State, Girls State and our Oratorical contest? Fundraising isn't the only thing we do. We must continue to be the organization that just doesn't give a man a fish, but teaches the man to fish. It's more important now than it ever has been in our Nation's history to educate our youth.

Family nationwide rallied to support it via Facebook donations. Within a few days, we raised over \$1,000, which supported over 10 families. Our Juniors got together on weekends in advance of the event to put masks together and, on the night of the event, helped all of the kids who came to our booth make masks. Now, I hadn't worked with teenagers in awhile, but it all came together and I couldn't have been more proud of them. To see them give up their time to help others – that's what it is all about. No bullying at our booth – just love

Some might be shocked that I would put in writing that not everything is “sunshine and unicorns” in our Department or our organization. I guess that's the beauty of being a PDC – I just get to tell it how I see it. However, if that's what you got out of this story, you missed the big picture. The end result was that we supported kids who needed our support. Our own kids learned that they had to selflessly give of their time to help others. I learned that I don't always get my way. I needed to do what I thought was right and find others who supported my idea. And, to those who didn't support it– they just had another idea. The only thing that we cannot do is to LIMIT THE POWER OF OUR PILLARS. That's right, our Pillars are powerful tools with limitless potential to help others. It's the Power of the Pillars, people! Support them in whatever way you can.

I've got a lot of people to thank. All those people on Facebook who donated – you helped to make other people's lives better. To my Junior adult leaders who had way more patience than I did, Faline and Keiko, you're my heroes. My own daughter, Chelsea, who was a Junior at Post 178, helped me and we actually kind of enjoyed the time we spent together. Our Juniors (and Teddy) rocked it! To see them patiently help a disabled child spend almost an hour making a mask and not giving up on her – yeah, that's pretty priceless. The support of our Madame President, Ms. Laurie, who just kind of let me run with it – thanks for having faith in my abilities. To Diane, Brandt, Pat – thank you for attending – I hope you enjoyed the evening. I would be remiss not to thank the Auxiliary National President, Kathy Dungan, for lending her support. It was a pleasure to see how much she genuinely cares. And, although he won't see it, Ken Clark from Channel 2 news always gives us a shout out. He has become a fan of ours, just as much as we are fans of his.

If you would like to lend your support, there are just so many ways to do it. Volunteer to support one of our programs. Sending a check is easy – the holidays are upon us. The Colorado Veterans Assistance Fund and Colorado Veterans Kids Fund are always in need of donations. We just can't keep up with the need, and it's not a good feeling for our Department staff to turn veterans away – especially during the holidays. And, of course, we will continue to promote our Pillars – all of them – in support of strong kids, our real heroes and a healthy and prosperous Nation.

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## Oratorical Competition

The American Legion Oratorical Contest is truly a Legion Family affair! So we need your help. We need volunteers for the contest which will be held March 9th. And we need applicants. The deadline to apply is January 31, 2019 and for Post certification it is February 28, 2019. For more information visit the [Oratorical Website](#) or click [here](#) for the 2019 brochure.

## Strategic Planning Committee

The Committee has been hard at work with our strategic plan. With the progress we have made, we have already received \$100 from National and are now eligible for another \$500. We have our first call with National regarding our plan the week before Thanksgiving and our regular monthly call with the committee the last week of November. Click [here](#) to view our [Strategic Plan worksheet](#) which displays our Goals, Objectives and Tasks, who as been assigned what tasks and their status.

## PR Committee - Social Media

Are you a chairman and not sure what you need for your web page. The [Chairman's Web form](#) will help. Click [here](#) to download the form or you can find it on the [Committees and Chairmen](#) page. Also available on the [Committees and Chairmen](#) is a [How To Guide](#) for chairmen - all the basics to use your web page and submit articles for the newsletter.

## Email Preferences

Thanks to everyone who has updated their email preferences. We had over 100 members read our August newsletter and our hope is to increase that each month. Please share with your unit members how they can either sign up for our newsletter or read it online.

You now have several ways to add and/or update your email preferences:

- At the bottom of this email you can click on "update your preferences" which will open a form with whatever we currently have on file for you. Update and save.
- At the bottom of this email click "unsubscribe" and that will remove you from our email list.
- Visit our [What's New](#) web page where we have added a link to this email list. You can also find the link on our [Publications](#) page.
- Visit Facebook. In the left hand side of the page are a list of tabs. At the bottom is "Email Preference Form"

We want to put you in control of what you receive from us!

## Tech Corner

Have a question about your computer, a piece of software, your Facebook page or how to build your own web page for your unit or district. Trying to figure out how to fill in that online form or you just need some help building a document. Now you have a place to ask that question - check out our [Technology page](#).



## **Veteran Passionate**

This newsletter is also available on Twitter and our Facebook page.