

Leadership Committee
2015-2016

To: American Legion Auxiliary Membersip
Department of Colorado
From: Donna Thompson, chairman
Ann Ritacco, member
President Diane Erickson, ex officio member

The term “leadership and leadership training” covers a multitude of areas. This year let us concentrate on committees. The department standing committees identified in the department standing rules allow a small group of members (usually 3 to 5 interested members) to accomplish the aims and purposes of the American Legion Auxiliary. It would be impossible for all of the department membership to work all the auxiliary programs at the same time.

By definition, a committee is a type of a small deliberative assembly that is usually intended to remain subordinate to another, larger deliberative assembly. To apply this definition to the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Colorado, each standing committee is a small deliberative assembly that remains subordinate to the Department Executive Board and to the membership through the board. Each standing committee has only those duties and power to accomplish these duties that are either described in the bylaws or standing rules.

Because the standing committees are subordinate to the Department Executive Board and to the membership through the board, the committee chairman and its members must do the following:

- Read the Plan of Work that have been developed by the national committee chairman
- Using this Plan of Work, decide how your committee can accomplish the goals that were established by the national chairman
- Develop and write the goals and procedural steps you and your committee need to take to accomplish the purposes of your standing committee
- Post these goals and procedural steps on the department web pages
- Help President Diane Erickson broadcast your plan of work to the members
- Start working your plan of work
- Evaluate your progress in meeting your goals and procedural steps, if necessary “recalculate your goals and procedural steps” and make any necessary revisions
- Report your committee’s progress at both the midyear board meeting and the department convention. This can be done in writing to save time and make the meetings run more smoothly and efficiently. Although this activity can be boring it is a necessary function of the committee.

National committees	Department committees
Girls Nation	Girls State
Americanism	Americanism
Children & Youth	Children & Youth

Community Service	Community Service
Education	Education
Junior Activities	Junior Activities
Legislative	Legislative
National Security	National Security
Poppy	Poppy
Veterans Administration & Rehabilitation	Veterans Administration & Rehabilitation
Auxiliary Emergency Fund	Auxiliary Emergency Fund
Cavalcade of Memories	Cavalcade of Memories
Constitution and Bylaws	Constitution and Bylaws
Leadership	Leadership
Membership	Membership
Past Presidents Parley	Past Presidents Parley
Public Relations	Public Relations
Audit	Audit
Finance	Finance
	Strategic Planning
	Citations & Awards
	Department Presidents Projects
	Distinguished Guest Committee
	Service to Veterans (formerly Field Service)
	Fund raising
	Permanent Membership

Becoming involved and working on a committee is one way to learn about the missions of the American Legion Auxiliary. In addition to learning about the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary you will have the satisfaction of knowing that your time and efforts have benefited the veteran, the veterans' family while preserving patriotism and Americanism.

As you can see there are 26 committees on the department level. Pick a committee that is of interest to you and get involved. Learn as much as you can about the purposes of each committee and then notify the department president of your interest in working on the committee. As a past department president, I recall that one of the more difficult tasks of being the department president was to find the interested and capable auxiliary members to fill each committee roster. So step up and join the fun work of committee work. While doing committee work, you will also be honing your leadership skills.

Inservice education at the 2016 Midyear Conference:

As the committee chairman, I have talked to President Diane Erickson about the possibility of hosting an inservice training session during the midyear conference. If time permits we could hold a mock committee meeting. During this session the topics will include but will not be limited to the following items:

- How parliamentary procedures used in committee meetings differ from the procedures used during large meetings of the association
- What the role of the chairman is
- What can the chairman can and can't do during the meeting
- What the role of each committee member is and how they can fulfill their role
- Why good committee work is essential to the continued growth of the American Legion Auxiliary.

We encourage you to attend the midyear conference, but if you cannot, contact the committee members about holding a special session in your district or unit.

Membership Committee:

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