

With all of the wildfires in Oklahoma, I wanted to remind our members about the AEF (Auxiliary Emergency Fund) grants available for disaster and hardship assistance. I have provided some of the basic information below. Please take note of the information highlighted in RED. You must file for the grants within 3 months of the disaster or hardship. (This used to be 6 months but has recently changed to 3 months.) You will be asked to provide documentation such as repair bills or estimates, hotel bills, itemized receipts for emergency expenses, etc.

TO FILE FOR GRANTS: Go to our National Website at alaforveterans.org and click on "How We Serve", then click on AEF - Emergency Assistance Grants. Scroll down the page and you will see two boxes, one marked "Disaster Grant Application" and one marked "Hardship Assistance Application". Click on either one and fill out the information requested.

Submit application - Once an application is complete, please e-mail to: AEF@ALAforVeterans.org; fax to ALA National Headquarters at: (317) 569-4502; or mail to: ALA National Headquarters, Attn: AEF, 3450 Founders Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46268.

Filing online is faster. If you have any questions, please email: AEF@ALAforVeterans.org or call: (317) 569-4500.

I hope this helps - Unit Presidents and Chairmen, please pass this information along to anyone who may need our assistance.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE

An AEF grant may provide immediate emergency assistance to eligible ALA members in areas devastated by a natural disaster such as fire, flood, hurricane, tornadoes, etc. You must have either received damage to your primary residence, been displaced/evacuated from your residence or had basic out-of-pocket expenses as a result of the disaster. Grants may be awarded up to \$3,000.

BASIC CRITERIA FOR QUALIFICATION

The applicant must be a current ALA member - Junior members are not eligible to apply. Applicant must have maintained annual ALA membership for three consecutive years (the current year and immediate past two years). Disaster application must be received within 3 months of disaster. Applicant must be able to provide documentation such as photos of damage to the primary residence (exterior/interior/contents), itemized receipt(s) for

emergency expenses, damage repair estimates, FEMA/insurance documents, current driver's license, and other information as requested. Only one AEF grant (disaster or hardship) per grantee will be awarded in a 12-month period.

HARDSHIP ASSISTANCE

An Auxiliary Emergency Fund grant may provide temporary assistance to eligible American Legion Auxiliary members during a time of financial crisis to pay for past due expenses related to their primary residence and/or for basic household utilities. Grants may be awarded up to \$3,000 with the intent to help members who have suffered a financial setback and offer a helping hand to help reestablish financial stability. Assistance will not be granted to pay medical expenses, credit card debt or any other expenses not related to shelter or basic household utilities.

BASIC CRITERIA FOR QUALIFICATION

The applicant must be a current American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) member. Junior members are not eligible to apply. Applicant must have maintained annual ALA membership for three consecutive years (the current year and immediate past two years). Applicant must be able to provide copies of past due bills for shelter (mortgage statement or landlord letter), basic household utilities (electric, gas, water, sewer, trash), documentation for loss of income, and other information as requested. Only one AEF grant (hardship or disaster) per grantee will be awarded in a 12-month period.

If anyone needs help with filing, I am available.

Serving Those Who Served

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