

HISTORY/CAVALCADE OF MEMORIES

PROGRAM ACTION PLAN

The heart of any organization's history is in its records. These records provide unique testimony to the achievement of an organization. Records also contribute in other ways:

- We are able to look back and learn what efforts were successful or not and why. Understanding the missteps as well as the achievements can assist in determining a future strategy.
- Pride in the organization has a direct correlation to motivating the membership to bring in new members achieve more goals, create a sense of strength and conviction while developing leaders.
- Maintaining and preserving our records are invaluable to society by serving as informative and educational resources to a variety of potential users. In other words, an organization benefits itself and the public by preserving its records and making them available for use by everyone inside and outside the organization.

The American Legion Auxiliary history is contained in artifacts, documents, newspaper articles, publications, meeting minutes, photos, newsletters written histories etc. We do this to honor those members who have made differences in our organization at all levels. History allows us to build a stronger organization. The Cavalcades of Memories museum, as well as the library and archives located at the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters serve as a resource for our members, volunteers, staff and the general public.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. If you currently have a History/Cavalcade Committee mirror the efforts of Department Headquarters to promote your history.

IDEAS:

- Share Auxiliary memorabilia with your unit and department.
- Ask longtime members or family of deceased members if they would like to donate an item.

UNITS:

- Appoint a History/Cavalcade Committee Chairman.
- Invite members to participate.
- Invite your Junior members in your activities, helping them earn the History patch.

UNITS (CONTINUED):

- Create displays that are attractive, interesting and relevant.
 - Highlight historical/important/interesting events in your unit/department.
 - Include memorabilia of your honorary Junior Presidents.
 - Use new technology to create and maintain digital images and records.
 - Make an inventory of your entire collection. This includes your organizational documents, written histories, scrapbooks, etc.
 - Attend local workshops to learn preservation and conservation methods.
 - Partner with local museums, historical societies, public libraries, or local merchants for consulting and displaying.
 - Ask members to consider donating or loaning important items they may have.
2. If the Unit does not have a History/Cavalcade Committee and no Cavalcade of memories Museum, initiate this project.
3. Your Unit needs to become visible throughout your community and let them know the American Legion Auxiliary's history and contributions to the community.
4. How to celebrate Women's History month -
- The month of March is dedicated to celebration of Women's history. It corresponds with the international Women's Day on March 8th.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Learn more about Auxiliary members who made history within our department or Unit.
- Celebrate the women in your life – mom, grandma, even your sister.

HOW TO INVOLVE A JUNIOR MEMBER.

- In a joint effort with the National Junior Activities Committee a History Patch for our high school (9th – 12th grades) junior members. These Young ladies have an opportunity to work with, learn from, and take ownership of the American Legion Auxiliary history. It's important for them to understand that they are a part of the auxiliary history by earning the patch.

HISTORY/CALVACADE OF MEMEMORIES MID-YEAR REPORT

Mid-year reports reflect the program work in the Unit and are intended as an opportunity for mid-year corrections. Each Unit History/Cavalcade Chairman is required to submit a narrative report to the Department History/Calvacade of Memories Chairman.

YEAR-END REPORT

Annual reports reflect the program work of your unit and result in a department award for participating. Each Unit History Chairman is required to submit a narrative report to the Department Chairman by or before May 1, 2024.

Yours in Service,
History/Cavalcade of Memories Chairman
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