

Unit 119 Member of the Year 2018_2019.

Unit 119 nominated and elected Diane Alexander as our unit member of the year. With this narrative we are now nominating her for Department recognition.

This year Diane has performed exceptionally well as our unit Treasurer, our Poppy Chairman and our Community Service Chairman. Diane only joined the Legion Auxiliary about two and a half years ago, and was not sure she would be very active. 😊

She has attended nearly every meeting since she joined and some District meetings each year. She also continues to read and learn everything she can about the roles she has taken in the Auxiliary. She is very familiar with both the National website and the Department website and brings information from both to her projects.

Our previous treasurer had little financial experience and left cluttered records and was not available so postponed called audits. Please refrain from reading that out loud as the former is a very good person that just did not have business accounting skills but agreed to take the role when no one else would. Diane stepped up and organized the records and held two audits to bring us up to compliance. She now keeps very accurate records and an organized file to make audits easier in the future.

At first Diane said she wasn't sure if she could help at the officer/chairman levels, but it was not long before she said she could take the Poppy Chair. She has done a great job of setting up business sites and organizing volunteers which has increased our poppy donations incrementally each year. For the 2018 Poppy Days she added the placement of Poppy cans with poppies in several businesses in town which again increased donations. She is now setting up an additional business front and more volunteers to increase our 2019 donations. Since taking this chair the amount, we take in, is now 183% of what it was before (2016 to 2018).

This year she added Community Service Chairman to her already busy responsibilities. She attends our local Grow Linden branch of the Chamber of Commerce and has led us to work several of the town's events the Chamber sponsors. This includes, the three day Gus Maker 4 on 4 basketball tournament where she worked the table promoting both the Chamber and the Legion Family , Eggciting Easter event at a local elementary school, Girls Night Out shopping event where she organized Legion Family members to work the registration tables, Fire and Ice fundraising event, and the Frosty Parade where she marched with Legion and Auxiliary members as part of the color guard during Holiday celebrations held in our town.

She worked the ALA table at Poppy Days, and at the Fenton Community Expo she worked both the Legion table and the Grow Linden table distributing material about our Chamber and our

Legion Family. She also worked at our annual Veterans Day dinner we provide to the public each year.

She set up and worked our "Patriotic Pavilion" at our town's National Night Out event to honor our first responders in our town in August. And she organized the other Legion family workers at this event. She had children color "You are my Hero" pages to send to troops and hospitalized veterans. And she set up a donation jar to raise funds for troop boxes and a self-photo wall for kids to be first responders at our "Patriot Pavilion".

When the Questers of Linden decided to put on a fundraiser to preserve our historical grist mill and museum here in town, Diane stepped up and chaired a project to provide a Legion Auxiliary place set table, including centerpiece to donate to their dinner fundraiser. And she got a Legion member and three Auxiliary members to buy tickets to the dinner. The centerpiece was designed by Diane and she invited auxiliary members to her home to put together the centerpiece and place settings. The centerpiece was raffled as a part of the event.

She assisted in planning, setting up and working a Vietnam Veterans Pinning Ceremony which was held this last winter and additional ones to be held in the coming months. At these events we distribute material about Veteran's Benefits and we have distinguished guests present the Vietnam Congressional Pins to those who earned them.

Our Auxiliary organized 12 items for 12 veterans project where we provided 12 pieces of furniture (total over 100 pieces of furniture) and some "move in" household supplies to house 12 veterans moving from homeless shelters into their own housing. A few months after the event was over Diane was contacted by her family with an entire household to donate, and Diane sorted, loaded and transported this entire additional house hold to the veterans shelter for their use.

If anything is asked of Diane, she always answers with an enthusiastic "yes".

Remember earlier when I said "At first Diane said she wasn't sure if she could help at the officer/chairman levels"? Can you imagine if she would have been sure? 😊.

There is no doubt in my mind that Diane has donated more hours and many dollars over what our average active member delivers.

Diane has brought in at least one new active member. And now Diane is at the forefront of working with the Legion to charter a new Sons of Legion affiliated with our post and auxiliary. Our small unit was struggling with many worker bees but no one willing to take on management assignments. Thanks to Diane ... oh what a future we have to look forward to.