



AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY
Serving veterans, their families and their communities



December News – By Pam Bates, Unit Public Relations Chairman

IMPORTANT PUBLIC RELATIONS INFORMATION
THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY IS PROUD TO
ANNOUNCE OUR VERY OWN WEBSITE:

WWW.Unit526.com

- If you see Jackie Grody, please go up and thank her for all her hard work on this project!!!
- If you want something on the **website calendar**, please contact me, Pam Bates, webmaster in training at pbates9@woh.rr.com or leave a message in writing at the Post. I need at least a two week notice of the event.
- **Remember:** A lack of planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part.



Newspaper Articles

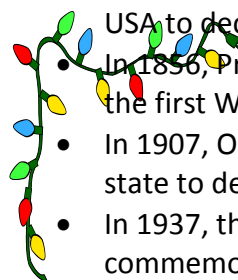
- Please give me (Pam Bates) the newspapers with our articles
- If you want a date on the Calendar, you need to give the information in writing to me a month prior to the function...that includes Calendar info for the Fairborn Herald (it often takes 3 weeks for our articles to show up)
- If you are planning a function and want an article in the Fairborn Herald, let me know in writing so that I can make arrangements to be there and take pictures...you need to provide me in writing the purpose of the function and date
- I also send pictures to the Buckeye Messenger and the National Home Front Magazine

DID YOU KNOW?



- 11 -18 December
- Hannukah is celebrated around the world for eight days and nights.
- Hannukah celebrates the victory of the Maccabees or Israelites over the Greek-Syrian ruler, Antiochus about 2200 years ago.
 A Menorah is a special nine-branched candelabrum, also known in Hebrew as a Hanukkiyyah.
- Each night of Hannukah, an additional candle is placed in the Menorah from right to left, and then lit from left to right. On the last night, all the candles are lit.
- A dreidle, or sivion is a four-sided top that has a Hebrew letter on each side.
- During Hannukah, families eat latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganiot (jelly donuts), or other foods which are fried in oil, to celebrate and commemorate the miracle of the Festival of Lights.

- In 1836, Alabama was the first state in the USA to declare Christmas a legal holiday.
- In 1856, President Franklin Pierce decorates the first White House Christmas tree.
- In 1907, Oklahoma became the last USA state to declare Christmas a legal holiday.
- In 1937, the first postage stamp to commemorate Christmas was issued in Austria.
- In 1947, Toys for Tots started making the holidays a little happier for children by organizing its first Christmas toy drive for needy youngsters.



KNOWLEDGE IN A NUTSHELL

Blanket Fidelity Bond: Have you ever wondered about the Bonding Fee you vote for on the budget? The National Organization writes a Fidelity Bond, which covers ALL Unit members and employees of the American Legion Auxiliary. Each Department is billed annually for its proportionate share of the bond premium. The bond covers loss through larceny, embezzlement, theft, forgery, misappropriation, willful misapplication or any other act of fraud or dishonesty caused by any member/employee of the American Legion Auxiliary if that person's manifest intent is to cause the Auxiliary to sustain loss and to enrich herself or another person.

Safeguards Recommended:

- Bylaws should provide for a regular Financial Report from Treasurer.
- Bylaws should provide for an Audit and specify how such audit is to be made.
- Receipts should be issued for all money received.
- Involve a second person in cash receipts processing.
- Make certain that your cash receipts log matches the cash receipts entry in the ledger and the actual bank deposits.
- Countersignatures should be required on all checks.
- All bills should be paid with a check.
- Blank checks should never be pre-signed.
- Someone independent of check processing should open and review bank statements.
- Someone independent of check processing should review bank reconciliations on a monthly basis.
- Some independent of check processing should review the vendor list – check to see if any vendor addresses match each other/or employee addresses.
- Someone independent of the request for wire transfers should verify all wire transfers.

DECEMBER IS VETERANS & AFFAIRS MONTH

- Dec 11 Third District Auxiliary Gift Shop, Bldg 305, Volunteers 9 AM Open 10 AM
- Dec 16 Legion Gift Wrap, Kettering Post 598, 7:30 PM
- Dec 25 Legion Gift Distribution 7—8 AM Coffee Donuts; Pass Out Gifts 8 AM

- 27 Third Dist Aux After-Christmas Party, 10 AM Pre- pare, 12 Noon Serve, Bldg 305, Dayton VAMC
- Home Service volunteers hours for reporting: sewing, baking, babysitting, cooking, shopping for these activities in the volunteer's own home
- The National Veteran's Creative Arts Festival will be held in Milwaukee, WI in 2010.
- Ask your VA&R chairman what is needed at the Dayton VA.

JANUARY IS LEGISLATIVE & NATIONAL SECURITY MONTH

- Winter brings snow. Go to www.whathappensnow.com for information
- Want a gift idea—how about a blue or gold star banner or pin or a subscription to The Dispatch?
- Remember to thank a Vet for his service.
- Communication is Key – contact your State and U.S. Senators and Representatives..the new website has a link to both

DECEMBER

- 4 Dec – Bake Sale for Canines for Combat Veterans
- 20 Dec – Children's Christmas Party from 2-4pm. Signup sheet in lounge Dec. 1.
- 21 Dec – General Membership Meeting-Christmas at Golden Corral in Beavercreek at 6pm. If you plan to attend leave a message for Sue at 878-8343 or message tree in lounge.
- 31 Dec – New Years Eve

JANUARY

- 15-16 Mid-Winter Conference in Columbus 7pm
- 22 Dec ALA Meatloaf Dinner
- 30 ALA 3rd District Roundtable – Greenville
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A Prayer for Thanksgiving by Abigail Van Buren mother. I think it fits what our Organization is all about: ***"We thank thee for food and remember the hungry; we thank thee for health and remember the sick; we thank thee for freedom and remember the enslaved; May these remembrances stir us to service, that thy gifts to us may be used for others"***