



AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY

Serving veterans, their families and their communities



February/March – By Pam Bates, Unit Public Relations Chairman

This Newsletter will be quite lengthy for two reasons: (1) there's a lot of activities going on and (2) I will be out of country for a month.

Feb. 20, 2010 – 50's Sock Hop. 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM.

Join us for a rockin' good time. We have a live band: "Corky's Old Time Rock & Roll Band". Tickets for the dance will be \$10.00 in advance and \$12.00 at the door. Kitchen will be open with a 50's menu. Many surprises and activities are planned during the evening. *Come in 50's dress, if possible!* Tickets may be purchased at Schwartz Jewelry, Eric's Barbershop, Chamber of Commerce, Flatter Insurance, Skyway Cleaners and during Tacos on Fridays at the Post.

Profit from the ticket sales will be going on the principal of the Post Mortgage.

One Nation, One Ride, One Great Cause

Supporting our wounded warriors while doing something fun...something you love...and something good for you has never been easier. You can get involved with Spinning Nation on Saturday, Feb. 27. Spinning, the world's leading indoor cycling brand, announced it will be hosting this third annual charity event. This year, proceeds will go to one of National President Rita Navarreté's special projects, Ride 2 Recovery (R2R), a nonprofit that benefits the mental and physical rehabilitation of men and women in the armed forces.

"We are grateful for the support of everyone participating in the upcoming Spinning Nation 2010," said John Wordin, R2R executive director. The Ride 2 Recovery program and its partners like Spinning, The American Legion Family,



United Healthcare, and the USO really help bring support to our injured veterans."

The American Legion Auxiliary's objective is to sign up members, friends and neighbors. It's as easy as 1, 2, 3:

1. Log on to Spinning Nation's Web site to find the location nearest you.
2. Register as a participant.
3. Begin fundraising to sponsor your ride.

If you cannot participate Feb. 27, contact us to make a donation. All proceeds received are used exclusively to purchase spin cycles for wounded warriors and for spin cycle labs at military and veterans hospitals.

Unit Members Attend Mid-Winter Conference

Four members of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 526 were at the Columbus Airport Marriott, this past weekend, January 15 and 16, 2010 attending the annual Mid-Winter Conference.

Department President Martha Lee Thatcher from Massillon, OH presided over the official opening on Friday evening. Guest speakers that evening were the Lieutenant Colonel Robert Bramlish of the Ohio National Guard and Jennifer Moore of the Southeast Ohio Family Assistance Center. Together they introduced us to "Operation: Ohio" (Ohio Helps Its Own) and a "Call to Action", Homefront Support for Our Military Families.

The evening concluded with a salute to those volunteers at our Veteran Hospital facilities in Brecksville, Cleveland, Chillicothe, Cincinnati and Dayton.

Saturday's session reconvened with progress reports from Department Chairmen. The Fairborn American Legion Auxiliary was well represented by Pam Bates, Cavalcade of Memories Chairman and Finance Committee ; Ellen Slone-Farthing, Community Service Chairman; Sue

Masten, Constitution & Bylaws Chairman; and Cuca Bowen, Field Service Chairman.

National President, Rita Navarrette of New Mexico, gave an inspiring address encouraging the American Legion Family to work together in efforts to promote our organization to our community and our military.

Founded in 1919, the American Legion Auxiliary is the world's largest patriotic women's service organization. With a membership of nearly 900,000, local ALA units have a strong presence in more than 9,500 communities nationwide. The ALA's mission **TO SERVE VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES** is carried out through its hundreds of outreach programs delivered by its members, volunteers and national headquarters.



Unit entry in Poppy Contest at Mid-Winter



Unit members meet with National President Rita



Department Chairmen Ellen, Pam, Cuca and Pam give their reports at Mid-Winter.

Unit Host MLK Day Event

On 18 January 2010, Unit 526, American Legion Auxiliary Fairborn members joined thousands of Americans in making the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday "a day on, not a day off" by serving in his honor. Dr. King used his influence as a civil rights leader to leave a great legacy of community service, and the members of the Auxiliary are proud to be a part of this special day.

American Legion Auxiliary members all over the country volunteered to build homes, deliver meals, refurbish schools and community centers, beautified parks and neighborhoods, and engaged in a number of other civic activities to improve lives and strength communities.

Other activities which our members focused on involved those who gave unselfishly to this country—our veterans. These service projects included job fairs, home improvements and bringing friends to VA hospitals.

Dignam-Whitmore, Unit 526, Fairborn held their special activity at St Marks Church.

The American Legion Auxiliary feels it is important for its members to reach out to the citizens in our community—especially veterans past and those serving today. Martin Luther King Day is a perfect day to our members to commit and make a difference in the lives our Fairborn community.

Thanks goes to Ellen Slone-Farthing for setting up this event.

If you wish to learn more about the American Legion Auxiliary and our programs, check out our website: www.Unit526.com

DID YOU KNOW?

**February is Americanism and Chaplain month!
March is Community Service month!**



AMERICANISM

The Auxiliary's Americanism program promotes patriotism and responsible citizenship and strives to uphold and promote American ideals and the principles of democracy.

- The goal of the Auxiliary's Americanism program is to educate every citizen on the

fundamentals of American government, the Bill of Rights and the value of active, informed involvement in the home, in the Auxiliary organization and in the community. Most successful Americanism programs are cooperative efforts between an Auxiliary Unit and its community. Contributions donated to the Spirit of Youth Fund by individuals, organizations and members' estates, benefit young people through such programs as the [Americanism Youth Conference at Freedom's Foundation](#) and the [National President's Scholarship](#) program.

If you have questions:

Unit Chairman: Pat Drake pjd3@sbcglobal.net

Chairman: Denise Conrad dconrad8@woh.rr.com



**THE DIGNAM-WHITMORE UNIT 526
FAIRBORN AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY ANNOUNCES INTERVIEWS
FOR HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS**

MARCH 21, 2010

2PM – 4PM

AMERICAN LEGION POST

526 LEGION LANE

FAIRBORN OH

CONTACT: ELLEN SLONE-FARTHING

ellenslone@fairbornseniors.org

937-878-4141

Learn more: www.Unit526.com

(Click Programs then BGS)

Buckeye Girls State is the name given to Ohio's Girls State program, which was designed to educate Ohio's young women in the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of good citizenship. By getting involved in the process, Delegates can learn more about City, County and State Government in one week than they will learn in an entire semester of high school.

CHAPLAIN

- The Auxiliary serves both “God and Country” through its Chaplains. Unit

chaplains honor the sacrifice of our men and women in uniform and commemorate the lives of the auxiliary members who have served them through prayer and meditation. They serve by brightening the spirits of those in our VA medical



facilities. Chaplain programs include preparing prayer books for veterans and units, honoring military families, and helping communities grieve over the loss of a loved one. Chaplains remind us that there is a higher power that allows us to serve our veterans, so we must remember to serve Him.

- During February a ceremony is held to drape the charter in memory of our deceased members.
- If you know of a deceased member, please let the Unit Chaplain know so that the **Member Data Form** is mailed to Department. The Unit Chaplain keeps track of these members for the annual Memorial Service at our meeting in May.
- The Unit may want to send a donation in the members name to the family or a favorite charity. The Unit may also be asked to conduct a memorial service at the funeral home to honor the death of one of our members.

Unit Chaplain: Terry Ensor

Department Chaplain: Patricia Dunlevy

patd@ssnet.com

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Auxiliary's Community Service program is based on the premise that no organization has a right to exist within the community without giving something to that community in return.

Community service helps to make our communities better places in which to live. Auxiliary members study community needs, recommend projects, raise funds and donate their time to accomplish their



specific objectives. Special attention is given to the selection of each project to ensure that the work of other organizations is not duplicated. Auxiliary Units also provide assistance on Community Service projects sponsored by American Legion Posts and work with other organizations to implement practical, worthwhile projects for the benefit of the community. Some examples include, blood drives, first aid and CPR training, child safety programs, support for women in shelters, donations to shelters for the homeless, tree plantings, recycling programs, and disaster and emergency preparedness programs.

Unit Chairman: Cuca Bowen

Department Chairman: **R. Ellen Slone-Farthing**
ellenslone@fairbornseniors.org

MEMBERSHIP

Target #4 – 85%
Can we make it?

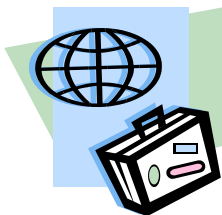
If your dues have not been paid by 31 December, 2009, your membership has expired. All Benefits stopped on that date:

Your ALA right to vote

Discounts: pharmacy, eyeglass, dental, travel, supplemental insurance, dell computer, long distance, dish network and many more

Fisher House

Department President Martha Lee's special project. A Fisher House is a "home away from home" for families receiving medical care at major military and VA medical centers. Please make your special donation to Fisher House and/or volunteer at our local Fisher House at WPAFB.



Book Your Travel Where It Makes A Difference

Imagine you could get great travel rates on your spring break vacation AND support the programs of the Auxiliary. Well, you can. Visit your [American Legion Auxiliary Travel Web site](#) to find out how. You'll find the same airlines, hotels, car rentals, cruises, vacation packages and more as on all other travel Web sites. The only difference: Each time you book travel on your Auxiliary's Travel Web site, a significant portion of the travel commission will go to the American Legion Auxiliary to support

its programs and services.

Your department or unit can benefit from the Auxiliary Group Travel Program. Call John Sharp for American Legion Auxiliary Travel at (888) 875-1672 today!

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It's Free and Safe!

Go to the National Auxiliary Website.

IMPORTANT PUBLIC RELATIONS INFORMATION
THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE OUR VERY OWN WEBSITE: find out more info on our programs WWW.Unit526.com



ELECTIONS

**THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DIGNAM-WHITMORE, UNIT 526
ANNOUNCES SELECTION OF A NOMINATING
COMMITTEE AT THE
15 MARCH 2010 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
ELECTIONS TO BE HELD AT THE 19 APRIL 2010
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
THOSE INTERESTED IN HOLDING AN OFFICE,
PLEASE CONTACT SHIRLEY KAISER, UNIT
PRESIDENT**

legion526@sbcglobal.net

937-878-3831 Post Home Number



**BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER
VOLUNTEER AS A CHAIRMAN OR WORKER
JOIN THE 50,500 AUXILIARY MEMBERS IN OHIO
The American Legion Auxiliary
Dignam-Whitmore, Unit 526, Fairborn
WANTS AND NEEDS YOU!!!**

**Looking for women to VOLUNTEER for the
Programs below**

www.Unit526.com

legion526@sbcglobal.net

937-878-3831 Post Home Number

Local Members Attend District Winter Conference

Six members of the American Legion Auxiliary, Fairborn, Unit 526 attended the conference on Saturday, January 30, 2010 held at Erk Cottrell, Unit 140, Greenville, OH. Those in attendance were: Shirley Kaiser, President; Pat Drake, Treasurer; Sue Masten, Secretary; Cuca Bowen, Executive Committee; JoAnn Trefetheren, Executive Committee; and Pam Bates, Parliamentarian.



Each District Chairman of Americanism, Children & Youth, Community Service, Junior Activities and VA&R gave their reports. These reports informed the members attending of the activities they should promote in the Unit and the awards that could be won at the District, Department and National levels.

A special presentation was given by the Sons of the American Legion District Commander, Dan Seagraves, on the District Special project: **Canines for Combat Veterans**. All **Canines for Combat Veterans** dogs are specifically trained to match the needs of the disabled veteran. Benefits and skills include: aids the transition to prosthetics; provides balance when walking; assists with tasks for those who use a wheelchair; retrieves and carries objects; presses buttons, opens doors; turns lights on and off; supports on ramps; responds to sounds for the hearing impaired; provides valuable social interaction. The District SAL has a goal of \$20,000, which is the cost of one dog, for use of a veteran in Ohio.

Veterans from the war on terror in Iraq and Afghanistan may be eligible for financial aid. For assistance dog applications and answers to your questions call 978-422-9064, ext. 22 or email veterans@neads.org.

Unit 526 will be holding a Bake Sale for **Canines for Combat Veterans**, Friday, February 5, 2010 during the Legion's Taco Lunch which is held at the American Legion Post, 526 Legion Lane from 1100 to 1:00. Come have lunch and purchase a

bake good or come and purchase a bake good for **Canines for Combat Veterans**.

If you wish to know more information about the American Legion Auxiliary, please check our website at www.Unit526.com.

American Legion Auxiliary introduces Gateway to Services



The American Legion Auxiliary Gateway to Services connects veterans, military service members and military families to resources and support that enhance their lives.

[Family, Community, and Social Support](#)
[Health and Wellness](#)
[Career, Training, and Education](#)
[Financial and Legal Support](#)
www.legion-aux.org/AboutUs

FEBRUARY

- 5 Feb – Bakesale for Canines in Combat
- 15 Feb – General Membership 6:30 – voting on changes in C&B read in Jan.
- 15 Feb – President's Day
- 19 Feb - Bake Sale for Dayton Children's Hospital & Fisher House @ WPAFB
- 20 Feb – Old Fashion Sock Hop (details above) \$10 advance/\$12 at door; 7-11pm
- 26 Feb – Auxiliary Dinner – Grill (no details at time of printing)

MARCH

- 15 Mar General membership meeting
- 20 Mar American Legion Birthday dinner Members must show card; guests \$7dinner/dance; \$5 dance; 6 – 11pm
- 21 Mar BGS Interviews 2-4 pm
- 26 Mar Spaghetti Dinner \$5 5-7:30 pm