

VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT
APRIL 2016

Congratulations to the Mid-Winter Buddy Poppy Winners: First place (\$25) went to Auxiliary #2113, De Pere; Second Place (\$15) was Auxiliary #388, Wausau; and Third Place (\$10) was won by Auxiliary 10818, New Richmond. I was very impressed with all of the wonderful entries. Thanks Sisters and Brothers for all of your hard work. Looking forward to seeing your displays at the Department Convention.

Convention Buddy Poppy Display Contest rules, categories, entry forms, and prizes are found on pages 7-10 of your Buddy Poppy Booklet. Displays will be presented and judged in four categories.

Category 1: Public Promotion of Poppy Campaigns

Category 2: Memorial or Inspirational Display (Post/Auxiliary)

Category 3: Artistic or Decorative use of the Buddy Poppy

Category 4: Memorial or Inspirational Display ((Youth Groups/Sons of VFW)

There will be a **Judges Award** for the **Most Impressive Display** in any of the above categories.

If you are the top winner of one of the four above categories, you can enter the **National Contest** which is described on pages 10-11 in your Buddy Poppy Booklet.

VFW National Home currently has **4 new Life Members** from the Department of Wisconsin which makes each one of them eligible for a drawing for \$10.00 at Department Convention. Remember to submit a copy of your Welcome Letter with your Year-End Report. The **Pond Restoration Project** has begun as it has been totally funded. Thanks for your donations to this project. If your Auxiliary has not sent in your donations for **Health and Happiness, (\$.10/ member of June 30, 2015 or \$.20/member for Dept. Award)**, please sent it to Auxiliary National Headquarter, earmarked H & H. Donations are currently being accepted for the Museum Renovation and General Fund.

Veterans and Military Support Program.

- **VFW Sports Clips Help a Hero Scholarship Program** is accepting online applications until April 30, 2016 for the Fall Semester. For the Spring Semester of 2016, there were 133 scholarships with one being from Milwaukee, WI.
- **Unmet Needs Program** provides up to \$2,500 in financial assistance to service members and military families who face unexpected financial difficulties as a result of military service. This assistance with basic life needs does not require repayment. Unmet Needs provides grants to service members or veterans who are serving on active duty or served within the past 72 months. Please see my September 2015 Bulletin for more information and applications can be found at www.vfw.org/NMS. The Unmet Needs Natural Disaster Assistance provides grants in the amounts of \$300 for power loss or damage to your home or \$500 for the total loss of primary residence. Service members must submit an application within 30 days of the state-declared natural disaster. Please inform your service members and military families about these grants to help them in difficult times.

- **Operation Uplink** provides at least 3 Free Call Days 10 minute Free Call Days/month. Sports Clips Haircuts sponsors all of them but 5 days for the current year according to the schedules.
- **MAP Program** has awarded 1 MAP event for Wisconsin for \$4,000 this year. Your Post/Auxiliary can participate and sponsor events with their local military community at no cost to you. You must complete an application and an event calendar which needs to be submitted and approved before your event. For more information, please check out National Ambassador Laurie Dale's January 26th Program Blog @www.wivfwaux.org. Click on Program Blogs (on the right side). If you have not registered, you must sign up. Let me know if you have trouble.

My VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM AWARDS FOR 2015-2016 are posted on our website: www.wivfwaux.org. Click on Program Chairmen, Veterans and Family Support and scroll down to the Veterans and Family Support Program Awards for 2015-2016. My previous bulletins are on the right side of this page a little further down.

NO COMPUTER ACCESS- *please check with your local library, family members who have computers, or let me know and I will send you the necessary paperwork.*

"Flying High for Veterans" as they are "Our Veterans-Now and Forever."

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