

Education

First of all thank you for the opportunity to be the Department Education Chairman. I have long been working in getting the American Legion Auxiliary active in our schools.

At the beginning of my term I sent a letter to all District Chairmen introducing myself and asking/telling everyone to get ahold of me if they have any questions or concerns. If I did not have the answers then I would find someone who did. I read and studied what Glenda Ritz, Indiana's Department of Education goals were and tried to follow in her footsteps toward our schools.

I then made copies of all of the American Legion Department of Indiana's scholarships and the National Scholarships and placed them in a folder for all of the District Education Chairmen to follow up on with their schools and handed them out at the Fall Conference. I personally took care of the schools in the 6th District as I am also the District Education Chairman. I contacted all the schools with the web sites and the names of all the scholarships so that they could follow up and print them off for their own guidance counselor office.

I try to keep on top of all the updates and wish to make known that our children are our future. In doing all of this, hopefully we will also get more members to join and/or become more involved in our future of the children, the legion and the United States of America.

As this is Education month, I have spent a day at the local elementary school reading "The Poppy Lady" to the students and went about donating the book to the classroom and also one to the elementary school library.

Last May I went to the elementary school and showed them how poppies were made, told them about the American Legion Auxiliary, Jr. Girls and the Sons of the American Legion. When I went to the school this past week most of the children remembered me as the lady who gave each one a poppy, pictures to color and reading the "The Flanders Field" poem to them.

All of my family including sons, daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren are members. There were quite a few young children there that I recognized and called them out as they are part of our legion family.

Children are very impressionable and know what the flag represents from Head Start on up. They impressed me today making the American Flag, using red, white and blue play dough, singing and marching saluting the flag. All in all Education is right up there next to the Veterans in my daily life.

These kids are our future and we as parents, educators and American Legion Auxiliary members need to remember that and do what we can to ensure their future is secure. One way to accomplish this is to make sure they can get the education that they need. Most of the kids now a days are helping to pay their own way through college. What we can do is to make sure

that they have help and that is through our scholarship programs. There are out there for them but they need to be made aware of all that we offer.

First of all we need to sign up juniors when they are just getting into school so that they can participate in the legion and learn what it is that we do or can do and this is where membership comes in. Let them become part of the American Legion Family. Either contact the schools in your community or visit them with copies of the scholarships that we offer. Let the school know when you can visit and speak with the students, encourage all to ask questions, be prepared with the answers. If you don't know, tell them you will find out and get back with them, then go find out.

November is Education month but every month should be education month as we learn something new all the time. You are never too old to learn.