

## BOOK OF REPORTS

2015-2016

### **“FROM THE SERVICE OF ONE” “COMES THE SUPPORT OF MANY”**

This year has been the most rewarding year of my 33 years with the American Legion Auxiliary. Traveling all over the State visiting with the members in all of the Units that I was able to visit. I wish I could have visited with every Unit, however, that is not possible. I was honored to be able to visit with 116 of our Units in Florida. I have traveled over 36,000 miles in my trips around the State. The Units that I was able to visit were very informative. I heard how you worked our programs, how you held fundraisers and dinners to support those programs. I also heard of many ceremonies that you participate in, like Veterans Day, Memorial Day and POW/MIA ceremonies and many more. I attended three POW/MIA ceremonies in the 1<sup>st</sup> District. The 1<sup>st</sup> District also had two USO shows that they put on. I heard they were fantastic with some great performers.

The way you take care of our Children & Youth in Florida is also amazing. The number of volunteer hours and money spent on your parties that you put on for the children is also amazing. You spent over **24,000 hours** on not only our children but military children also. You have donated over **\$29,000** to the Child Welfare Foundation and supported a new program called Beads of Courage with over **\$5,000.00**. Whenever we come up with a new program like COTA and Beads of Courage you have supported them with your hearts. COTA received over **\$13,000.00** again this year and I thank all of you for continuing to support this program that takes care of the children in Florida needing transplants.

In the beginning of the year I reported that my special project was the Fisher Houses. The State Commander Jim Ramos chose the Fisher Houses as his project too. We have six Fisher Houses and a new one will be under construction in June. I visited many of the Fisher Houses and was very impressed with them. Many of our members did not know what the Fisher House was and so I would tell them that it was a home where family members could live while a loved one was in the VA Hospital. I am proud to say that the members in our Units came together in support of this project and you have donated **\$57,270.94**. That is an awesome amount and I thank you all. So with the donations that the Commander has collected I would say we have given them the support they need this year.

Another program that has soared out of site is Membership. As of this report we have been #1 in the Nation for 13 weeks. I think this is a record and it could not have been done without everyone working on membership. We had a membership chairman this year that has done everything she could think of to keep us motivated. It has been the year of the “Monkey’s” and what a year it has been.

On my travels throughout the State I visited many Transition Houses and camps for the homeless veterans. The support the members give to these homeless veterans is amazing. The donations that you give food, clothing, blankets, toiletries and whatever else you find out that they need is also amazing. One transition house I visited and went on a tour, we noticed that the pillows on their beds were almost flat. So Unit 80 St. Cloud purchased them pillows so now I know they are sleeping a little better. This is just one example of what you have done. I am proud of all of you for the work you do to take care of our Veterans.

All of the Department Officers have supported my theme and have done a good job getting the information out to all of the Units. Thank you all so much for all your hard work. We have been "Keeping the Promise" and believe in "Service not Self". We show this every day by what we do.

For God and Country

Pearl McIntyre

Department President