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Hello, My name is Lois Stachelrodt and I am your Spiritual Leader that will keep the light shining above.

As we begin to light the path, it is my responsibility to prepare all Chaplains throughout the State of Florida to be ready to light the path that needs to be taken and be able to show the way to any members who desire to come along.

As you know, Chaplains are known as Spiritual Ambassadors for our Organization and should always be prepared by carrying a small book of prayers, (show a small book) in case you get asked at the last minute to say a prayer. This can happen while attending a meeting, a community function, at a special dinner or a Memorial Service. So please be prepared.

Are you ready to light the way for Erna and for our Veterans?

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As Spiritual Ambassadors, chaplains need to be aware of the diversity of all faiths and cultures. Be courteous to everyone and try not to offend anyone.

Provide emotional and spiritual support to members and their families.

By doing these items, we show dignity and respect to everyone.

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All prayers must be non-denominational, and that means “not restricted to or associated with any specific religious denomination”.

Be prepared at a moment’s notice to say a Prayer or to assist in a ceremony.

Send Get Well, Sympathy, Thinking of you and Congratulations cards during the year.

Drape the charter for deceased members. Invite family members to attend the service that is held at the Unit meeting.

Hold Memorial services when asked by a family member or if the unit is asked, be prepared to conduct the service.

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Don’t forget to send the Deceased Member Form to both District and Department Chaplains. If they do not receive the form, then the member cannot be included in the Memorial Services at the end of the year. Forms are provided in your District packets and the form can also be found on the Department website under forms. Please make sure that all Unit Chaplains have my address to send these forms to – NOTE: (they no longer go to Marion Vick). Please do not wait until the end of the year to send all the names in. We like to receive them on a monthly basis in order to honor that person in a timely manner. Cut off for names to be included in this years Memorial Service will be May 16, 2015, so please do not hold the names until the end of the year, send them as you receive them. This cut off is due to copying the names in time, to be placed in the programs for the memorial service held at Convention in June. Any questions, see me after the meeting.

We would like to see more participation in the patriotic ceremonies such as Four Chaplain's, Flag Disposal Ceremonies, Wreaths across America and any others that you may get invited to attend. Please make sure you report them on the year end reports so your unit gets counted and it helps Department at the same time. Please do not send checks to me, they are to go directly to Department Headquarters.

Visit members who are ill when you can and don't forget you can go to other locations besides the hospitals as they may be in Nursing homes, Rehabilitation Centers or at their individual homes.

Include Junior members in your visitations and ceremonies as sometimes they may brighten up someone's day and they may even bond with a person that someone else cannot.

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(Click for Year End Reports)

_Unit Chaplains, do not forget to do year end reports which are due to the District Chaplain by (Click for Date to show)

APRIL 15, 2015 – No Later.

District Chaplains – The year end reports are due to Department Chaplain by (Click for Date to show) May 1, 2015 – No Later.

The forms are in the District Packets. Please feel free to make copies as needed.

Remember if it is received after these dates, they will NOT be included in the year end report, so please plan accordingly.

District Chaplains, I have made a Compilation form that I hope will assist you in compiling your year end report.

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Prayer Books being submitted for competition, **Must** Reach Department Chaplain thirty (30) days prior to convention (May 27, 2015).

Please remember that a Chaplain does not do a Prayer Book alone. It is and should be a collection of Prayers that mean something to all members of the Unit, Juniors, and/or District. All members should be asked to contribute to the Prayer Book for either Unit, Junior, District and/or Department and then it will be a success. Another way to add prayers, is if the District Presidents as they visit units, ask the Chaplain from that Unit or location to send that prayer to the District Chaplain to include in the Prayer book. With that being said, I would like to ask all the District Chaplains to send me the Prayers that may read during Department President Erna's visitations, whether it be a Luncheon, Dinner or Get Together.

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Resources

Chaplains Manual – Can be downloaded from National Headquarters Website and a copy is also included in the District Packets

Chaplains Prayer Book – Can be purchased through Emblem Sales or use a White Binder to create your own.

Look on the Internet for Non-Denominational Prayers

Create your own Prayers

Use the American Legion Auxiliary Magazine for inspirational thoughts or ideas

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Plan of Action gives you an outline of everything that I discussed here today.

White Binders are preferred

Prayers to be centered, including the authors name

Please remember if you use a cross, then you must use a Star of David

Please see all other rules in the Unit Guide

Remember strict adherence to the rules must be followed.

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Awards

The Winner of the Prayer Book will receive the Mae Nally Plaque

There will be an award for District Prayer Book.

There will be an award for the best narrative report.

All other entries will receive a certificate

As long as the rules are followed that are in the Unit Guide, we should see the path shining brightly for our Veterans.

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Are there any Questions?

Thank you