

EDUCATION SPEECH

Good (Morning – Afternoon)

SLIDE 1

My Name is Pat Devine and this year I am Department Education Chairman. The Committee Members are Robin Briere and Ruth Sovern

The Education Program promotes the American Legion Auxiliary's role in providing quality education for children and adults.

SLIDE 2

President Erna's theme this year is "Lighting the Way for Veterans".

SLIDE 3

“Veterans in the Classroom” program is a good way to promote this theme at local schools. The “Veterans in the Classroom: History in the First Person” is a publication available on the Legion website and is a good place to start. Many schoolchildren have never met a veteran and do not know what a veteran is. It’s time to introduce students to our nation’s heroes. Contact your local schools to see if they would be interested in hosting a “Veterans in the Classroom” event.

SLIDE 4

“Education is transformational. It changes lives. That is why people work so hard to become educated and why education has always been the key to the American Dream, the force that erases arbitrary divisions of race and class and culture and unlocks every person’s God-given potential.”

A quote from Condoleezza Rice, former U.S. Secy of State.

SLIDE 5

One way we can promote education is through the many scholarships and awards offered

through the American Legion Auxiliary. Make local schools aware of National, Department and Unit scholarships. Make brochures available to local schools.

SLIDE 6

When applying for National Awards, be sure to attach the National Award Cover Sheet. Be sure to fill out the application completely and accurately.

SLIDE 7

Have all Units support the "Give 10 to Education" program.

SLIDE 8

Contribute school supplies, such as paper, rulers, crayons, pencils, backpacks, etc. in increments of 10 to local classrooms.

Participate in American Education Week: November 17-21, 2014.

Recognize **ALL** School personnel, not just teachers.

SLIDE 9

There are many resources available listed in the Plan of Action.

SLIDE 10

At this point I would like to tell of a personal experience. Included with the National Education Plan of Action, is a “How to Create a Unit Scholarship” guide. About 2 years ago, Dunedin Memorial Unit 275 started a fundraiser for Nurses Scholarship, specifically designated for veterans with PTSD and TBI through USF. It was so well received, that the entire Post (Legion, Sons and Auxiliary) decided to continue with the fundraising for this very worthy cause. We now have our own scholarship – USF Foundation Fund

270035 – American Legion Post 275
Family – Veterans Scholarship.

To date over \$10,000 has been
donated to this fund. It has been
written up in the USF newsletter.

So it is possible to start a scholarship.

SLIDE 11

Unit Mid-Year reports are due to
District Chairman by November 15,
2014 and District Mid-Year reports
are due to Department Chairman by
December 1, 2014.

Unit Year End reports are due to District Chairman by April 15, 2015 and District Year End reports are due to Department Chairman by May 1, 2015.

Are there any questions?