

Americanism ~ Patriotic Instructor

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When I was approached by Madam President to take the role of the 2023-2024 Americanism Chairman, I was filled with a mix of emotions and thoughts. As I pondered over the responsibilities of this prestigious position, I began envisioning the goals and aspirations that I would like to see the Department of Washington Auxiliary members achieve during the upcoming term. Amongst the thoughts that flooded my mind, one idea stood out as my primary focus - the power of collaboration and the need to "Do it for those who can't".

In order to ensure the success and inclusivity of our programs, it is crucial to involve each and every other chairman and Auxiliary members in the decision-making process. By including them in our thought process, we can tap into their diverse perspectives, expertise, and experiences, leading to well-rounded and effective program outcomes. This document explores the importance of involving chairmen and Auxiliary members in program decision-making and provides strategies to ensure their active participation. Examples:

- * Get coloring pages for your kindergarten, first and second grade students. Have them enter in a contest the same time Youth Essays, Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy are announced. ~ *include your Youth Activities Chairman*
- * Attend High School functions and register students to vote (16 or over)-*include your Legislative Chairman*
- * Set up a Wreaths Across America Program at your local cemetery (also a fundraiser for your Auxiliary)-*include your Veterans and Family Support Chairman*
- * Make quilts-walker bags-tray favors for our Veterans-*include your Hospital Chairman*

As your Auxiliary Americanism Chairman, you also have the responsibility of the Patriotic Instructor. Your main responsibility is up to you to keep the meeting room within the ritual:

- * **Attention** in the VFW Auxiliary means at sides head up and eyes looking straight
- * **Parade Rest** means left foot is moved slightly to the side while bringing the arms to the small of the back, Clasp the left thumb in the right hand. The head is bowed slightly during prayer.
- * Show proper respect to the Flag. Place your hand over your heart (if a member is also a Veteran, a military salute may be used) when saying the pledge of allegiance and when the National Anthem is sung. Members should stand when the flags are moving.
- * Members shall remain seated while the Chaplain opens and closes the Bible, provided the Colors are not at the Altar.
- * Whenever the Chaplain is opening and closing the Bible, everyone should stop all movement and talking.
- * Members shall not cross between the President's station and the Altar. This is considered sacred ground symbolizing where our comrades have answered the final roll call and been laid to rest. The only time crossing this area is allowed is when the Bible is closed.

I am hoping some of these ideas have helped spark some ideas of your own through the year and beyond. I have an open door policy and I look forward to any questions you may have along the way.

Do it for those who Can't

Loyally,
Doreen Dale/Chairman

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