

American Legion Auxiliary Newsletter January 2015

We do so very much for our veterans and the families, we really want to interact with younger members and have meetings that would interest spouses with young children at home and the military members deployed. We know from personal experiences that even a coffee buddy can change how your day goes when the spouse is deployed. Many of us have walked in these shoes and we would love to be a mentor to you. I have always loved to get a bunch of wife's and their children together for an afternoon that lets the mom relax and the children bond some. I would love to start something like a twice monthly play date and let new ideas for the children to make gifts for their parent. We need to open the Legion doors to these youngsters so they have a safe place to gather with other children whose parents are deployed and they are now noticing the "I'm alone, my dad would know what to do. Older teens might like to form a Big Brother Big Sister group, right here in River City. We can start making plans and by July 4th have a Plan for the Fourth of July party held in Tautphaus Park after the Parade. Everyone goes—we just need to get organized and be that group everyone wants to hang with before the fireworks.

I'd like to start and organize the American Legion Junior Auxiliary here in Idaho Falls. Membership is open to female family members of a veteran who is a Legionnaire, or deceased military who would have been eligible to join The American Legion. Membership dues are only \$5.00 and go from birth until age 18, then you become a Senior member of the American Legion Auxiliary. Our youth need to learn the importance of service and to volunteer within their communities.

Our Auxiliary Unit needs new blood, we need new ideas and new approaches, we NEED YOU, the wife of that new Legionnaire for Post #56. Come with him to a meeting. Bring yourself, your daughter and your son, there is a group called SAL's. That stands for Son of the Legion—it gives us the opportunity to involve the entire family as we serve our veterans, their families, and their communities.

Remember that the first 4 words in our preamble are "*For God and Country*", how could you not want to join with those whose purpose is to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism, to promote peace and goodwill..to safeguard and transmit to future generations Justice, Freedom, and Democracy. This was just parts from the Preamble we hold so dear as members of the World's Largest Patriotic Women's Service Organization, the American Legion Auxiliary. Please come visit and give us a try, meetings are at 7 PM the 3rd Monday of each month.

Toni Gimpel

Unit #56 Secretary