**National Security Program Engagement Plan**

**American Legion Auxiliary**

**Department Of Michigan**

**2023-2024**

Chairman Dawn Gramza #514 – 2nd District

PO Box 263 , Luna Pier, MI 48157

Cell 419-509-5054/ [nursevna@aol.com](mailto:nursevna@aol.com)

What is this this program, and why do we have it?

1. Support the emotional and social needs of active, reserve and transitioning military service members and their families. Action items: send care packages, check on needs of military families, support Month of the Military Child ( April ), present Blue and Gold Star Banners, become informed about PTSD, TBI, domestic violence and support agencies in your area. Wear RED on Fridays to “Remember Everyone Deployed, “Greet servicemembers and families as they deploy and/ or return from deployment, etc.

2. Assist military spouses in getting and maintaining employment. Action items: Support Military Job Fairs in your community and volunteer to help staff at information booths regarding the ALA, at Job fairs for Military spouses.

3. Support the National Security Programs of the American Legion. Action items: assemble emergency preparedness kits ( Be prepared for emergency, in Michigan that could include tornadoes, snowstorms, fires, extended loss of power, etc.) A simple kit could include bottled water, batteries, flashlights, blankets, non-perishable food and first aid kits: Consider taking CERT training: Host a POW/MIA ceremony on National POW/MIA Recognition Day (celebrated on the third Friday in September), etc.,: Follow the Legion’s POW/MIA Empty Chair Resolution 288 designating an empty chair at all official meetings. Other examples are donating blood, assisting in blood drives in your communities’, etc.: host a First Aid, CPR or other emergency skills event. Host a remembrance event for any MIA service members who have been identified from your area: Honor ROTC and JROTC cadets and recognize their accomplishments: Invite ROTC’s and JROTC’s to post colors or even volunteer at Units events: Present red/white/blue cords to graduating high school seniors who will be entering the military after graduation: either as an Auxiliary or jointly w/ your Legion Post.

Recognize local law enforcement, fire fighters, first responders or other essential workers.

(Recognition could be as simple as sending a thank you to delivering cookies, pizza, etc... to host a recognition dinner).

**Department Unit Awards:**

All entries for Department Awards should be doubled spaced, typewritten and in a narrative form.

(\*Please know that the winning award that qualifies for a National Award submission will not be returned, so do not include any pictures, scrapbook, or newspaper articles, that you want to keep). The first page should contain Department, District#, Unit name and #, the title of the awards you are applying for and Submitted By\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Agnes Dunn Citation:** This citation is presented to the Unit with the Most Outstanding Unit National Security Program. ( Simply explain what your Unit’s National Security efforts were over the past year).

**\*** The 1st Place entry will be forwarded onto national for a Unit Award in the Central Division.

**Imogine Cowgill Citation:** This citation is presented to the Unit promoting the best crime prevention program or honoring a local officer.

**Phyllis Van Hill Citation:** This citation is presented to the Unit promoting the best fire prevention program or honoring a local firefighter.

**Salute To Servicemembers-** \*Units can nominate one enlisted servicemember (male or female) from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air force, Coast Guard, Space Force and the National Guard/Reserves.

**Reporting:**

**Year-End Reports**

**Unit Reports** are due to your District Chairman And District President by March 30,2024. Please include all information from the question/ answers on the Department Reporting Form, also any other information such as how many members involved, how many hours volunteered, how much money was raised or spent in a narrative form, describing your wonderful activities participating in this wonderful program. And any Award submissions.

**District Reports and Award Submissions** are due to the Department Chairman by April 15, 2024.

Please include all Unit information from the questions/answer from the Department Reporting form. Also, any Narratives and Award Submissions that were submitted by Units. Please submit your Districts 1st place entries for the Department Awards: **Agnes Dun Citation, Imogine Cowgill Citation, Phyllis Van Hill Citation and Salute To Service Members Award.** Please include the Green Slip.

Resources:

1. https;//member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/national-security.
2. Legion Resources: Legion .org. Programs, Meetings and National Affairs click on National Security where you will find info on Blood Donation Programs, National Security links, and other Resources.
3. American Red Cross: [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)
4. USO:www.uso.org
5. Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS): [www.taps.org](http://www.taps.org)
6. ROTC and JROTC information: See Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine, Coast Guard.
7. Emergency Preparedness Information:www.Ready.gov: Citizen Corps: http//www.ready.gov/citizen-corps: CERT Program [www.fema.gov/community-emergency-responseteams](http://www.fema.gov/community-emergency-responseteams): Sesame Street’s Preparedness Info for Young Children: [www.sesamestreet.org/ready](http://www.sesamestreet.org/ready)

Month of the Military Child (April) <http://www.dodea.edu/dodeacelebrates/military-child-month.efm>

Did you know that the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters has a Facebook Page titled ALA National Security Group that you can join?