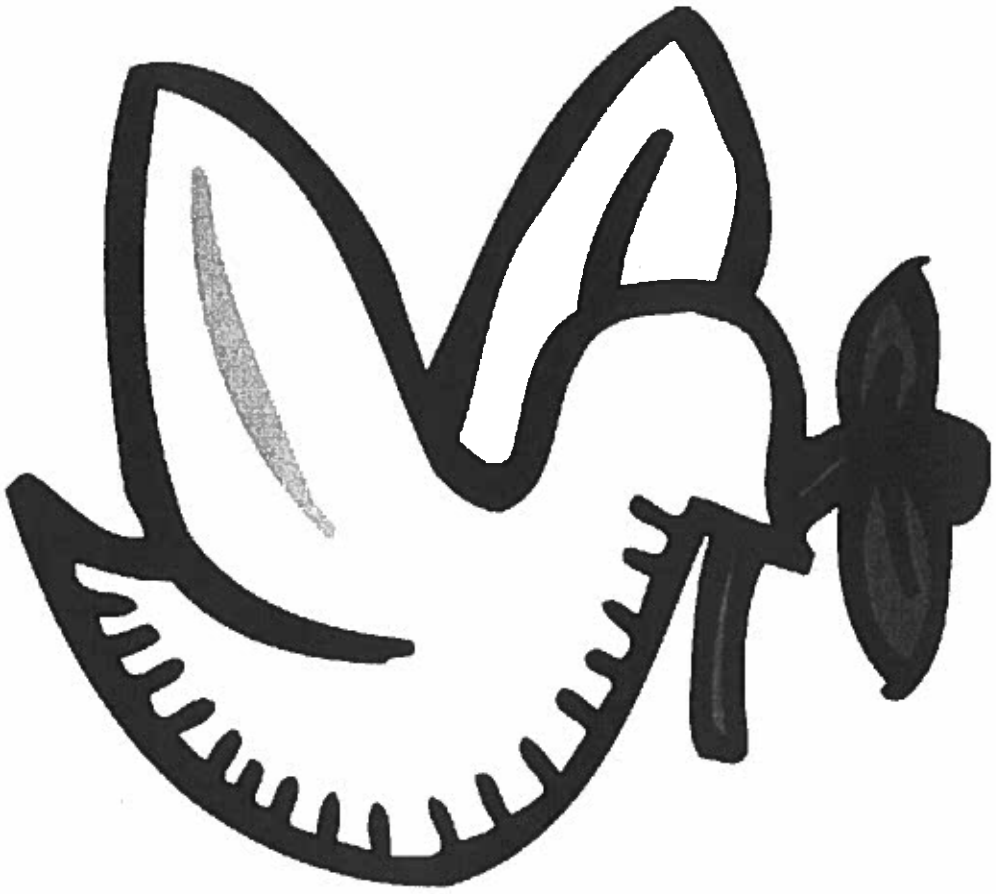
Department of CT
Chaplain Action Plan



By:
Department Chaplain, Lorraine Dixon
October, 2022
American Legion Auxiliary

ABOUT PRAYER

The Our Father contains all possible petitions; we cannot conceive of any prayer not already contained in it. It is to prayer what Christ is to humanity. It is impossible to say once through; giving the fullest possible attention to each word, without a change, infinitesimal perhaps but real, taking place in the soul.

Simone Weil

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

The American Legion Department Chaplain expresses by word and action, our founding principle of service to God and Country and encourages all to celebrate diversity among people and faiths. I, as Department Chaplain, will provide spiritual and emotional guidance when needed or requested, always sending dignity and respect to the occasion. I am PROUD to serve as Department Chaplain, and grateful for this opportunity.

Programs and activities

I shall: 1. Pray for the American Legion Auxiliary, its members and leaders, for success in carrying out our mission.

2. Guide members through prayer experiences that are appropriate for the situation.

3. Act as spiritual ambassador of the organization.

Through bulletins (Auxiliare) and other means of communication

I shall: 1. Provide and promote emotional and spiritual support to the American Legion Family by sending emails, prayers, etc., to members throughout the year.

2. I shall be responsible for all invocations, benedictions, and memorial services for deceased members at official meetings.

3. Recommend educational materials that promote a spirit of unity and love.

CHAPLAINS

American Legion Auxiliary chaplains have compassionate hearts dedicated to service "for God and country". They help members connect with God and act as spiritual guides in the practice of prayer and service.

Chaplains reach out not only to The American Legion Family, but also to all of those with needs in their communities, states, and nation.

Chaplains at the unit, district, department, and national levels serve alongside their fellow members and are called upon to pray at gatherings and to lead services such as memorials for our fallen soldiers and deceased members.

They energize the hearts of Auxiliary members and foster selflessness as they serve veterans, the military and their families.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

To express, by word and action, our founding principle of service to God and country.

PRACTICAL SERVICE

As Department Chaplain, I am responsible to "live" the purpose statement in practical ways by writing spiritual reflections for the Auxiliare, offering prayers at events, and sending words of encouragement for spiritual stamina to our Department President.

Keep me as the apple of the eye,
hide me under the shadow of thy wings
Psalm 17:8

CHAPLAIN'S BOOK OF PRAYERS

I would like to encourage all units, and districts, to think again this year of presenting their "Book of Prayers."

At convention (July), I will proudly award the MARY E. HINDSLEY AWARD to the Unit presenting the best "Book of Prayers." I will proudly award the BETTY JANE BERGSTROM AWARD to the District presenting the best "Book of Prayers"

So Units and Districts start collecting and saving your prayers throughout the year.

Completed books of prayers will be submitted to me. I will select 3 past Department Presidents to judge the Books of Prayers submitted to me by May 13, 2023.

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HOW IS A PRAYER BOOK MADE?

The unit and the district chaplains do not make the Prayer Book alone. It is a collection of prayers, devotional thoughts and poems that mean something special to said member. The Chaplain and members may write their own prayers or devotional thoughts for the book. All members may be asked to give the unit or district chaplain something for the prayer book.

The chaplain may want to type the material she receives. She may want to add pictures that go along with the prayer, devotional thought or poem. She may decide to use some of the decorative paper that is currently available. Making a prayer book is a delightful job. Be sure to enjoy every minute of it.

The next page will reveal suggested rules for submitting a prayer book. Remember, if you do not wish to submit an entire prayer book, at any time please send me any prayer, devotion or thought that you would like me to share with others.

SUGGESTED RULES FOR THE PRAYER BOOK

1. The book cover should be one bought from National Emblem Sales with the Auxiliary emblem on it.
2. The book cover can be a three ring binder and decorated.
3. Prayers, devotional thoughts, and poems are to be collected from members.
4. The book must be typed, handwritten or a mixture.
5. Pictures may be used.
6. The book must contain the Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble to the Constitution.
7. The book must contain cover page with Chaplain's name, address, Unit or District number.
8. The book must have a dedication in the front.
9. For judging, a point system will be in place. Points will be awarded for neatness, grammar, content, a cover page, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Preamble.

It is suggested that you make two books (not a rule), keeping one and submitting the other.