

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
Department of Illinois  
Illini Girls State

January/February

The 69<sup>th</sup> session of Illini Girls State will be held on the campus of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Il from Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup> to Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Illini Girls State is a simulation based on Illinois Government to provide citizenship training For girls who have just completed their Junior year in High School. **REMEMBER, THE UNIT SHOULD BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE SELECTION OF THE CANDIDATES. THIS IS OUR PROGRAM, AND WE ARE THE SPONSORS!** When selecting your candidates, please be sure they are interested in being there and have an interest in government. Do not make your selection based solely on the fact that the girls are American Legion Auxiliary Juniors or that they are a relative of someone in the American Legion family. **APPLICANTS MUST ATTEND THE ENTIRE SESSION!**

You have recently received information on the forming of the Alumni Foundation and we are still seeking anyone that has been involved or attended Illini Girls State. If you know anyone who is a former citizen or is interested, please have them contact me.

The fee will be \$200 per citizen. You may remit your fee to department headquarters now to assure there is a spot for your citizen. I would encourage you to reserve 2 spots or more if possible. It is a very exciting week, and we would like to give as many girls as we can the opportunity to participate. You may find another organization or business willing to pay the fee for any citizens you would like to send, but remember, the Auxiliary Unit is the sponsor and must be involved in the selection. If you have the funds to send a citizen but do not have a candidate, please contact other area Units or department headquarters as there may be another Unit who has a candidate but no funds.

Each year we ask the Units to once again dig deep and send contributions to defer the cost of Illini Girls State. This year is no exception. In order to keep the fees down, we must rely on your generosity to contribute anything you can to assist the operation of this program. Last year's figures reveal that we are meeting our budget requirements, but as you well know the cost continues to rise. It has always been our goal to provide a quality program at a reasonable cost. Please help us continue this tradition. We thank you.

**Once again, the Girls State Commission would like to stress the importance of orientation of your candidate prior to attendance at Illini Girls State.** If your candidate cannot attend, encourage at least a parent to attend. If you would like a commission member, a staff person, or the Dean or Director to assist you with your tea, please contact me and I will find someone in your area. You truly want your future IGS citizens to be informed before arriving in Charleston. They will benefit even more from the experience.

## UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Remit the \$200 fee now, AND **THEN** select the most qualified candidate or candidates.
2. Provide an orientation at the Unit, County, or District level. Call me if you would help with your event.
3. Place a promotional pamphlet in your school as soon as possible. A DVD is available.
4. Check into transportation needs.
5. Publicize! Let your community know about your selection and their return.
6. **STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR CANDIDATE UNTIL SHE ARRIVES AT IGS.**
7. Invite your citizen(s) to report when she returns from IGS.
8. Invite her to become a member if she is eligible.

Once the Unit has sent the fee and application to Department Headquarters, the candidate will receive a packet of information in mid-May. Please assist them in filling out all forms and/or scholarships as soon as they receive them. These must be returned to Department Headquarters by June 1, 2009.

We try very hard **NOT** to house citizens from the same area together. Please be sure your candidate knows this in advance. The dress code is easy to follow if they read the information. Please assist them in thoroughly reading the materials they are sent. **NO Jeans, cargo pants, or shorts** may be worn any time except recreation time (which we have every day). A special or semi-fancy dress is appropriate for the Friday night banquet. Many girls bring their prom or homecoming dress. Skirts, dresses, shorts, or dress slacks are required for all sessions. Please read all information thoroughly to help your citizens know what to bring and how to pack.

Many citizens arrive and do not know this is an American Legion Auxiliary Program. Please make certain they know this!

Please view our IGS website at: [www.illegion.org](http://www.illegion.org) then click on American Legion Auxiliary on the left hand side of the page, then click on Links at the top of the page, then click on Illini Girls State.

*Wanita Burns*

Illini Girls State Director