

Fall Children & Youth
Commission Meeting
October 5, 2019

We met at 10:00 a.m. at Department Headquarters.

The following members were present:

2 nd Division	David Johnson, Vice Chairman
3 rd Division	Cheri Stanton, Chairman
4 th Division	Terry Abdelnour
5 th Division	Carole Sandusky
1 st Division	Jan Lepinski, absent

Guests: Department Commander, Roy Weber brought greetings and Sue Johnson, Auxiliary Chairman.

We discussed the brochure and any changes. We requested a list of names, addresses and phone numbers from all Legion Family Children and Youth members so we can get brochure updated.

At each District and Division meeting, each chairman needs to tell about the project for the "SEASON". Push Consolidated Reports all year.

FALL – Children's Christmas program for Institutionalized Children. Take up a collection and send to Department. This is the first year we are giving \$10 gifts - \$5 from the Legion and \$5 from the Auxiliary for this program.

WINTER- Have a rep from IMK (formerly OMK) come to district or division meetings to talk about the PILLOW CASE PROJECT. Show a case and ask for donations. We have given out to deploying soldiers and their families over 17,300 cases. Our new members need to know we do this. The Auxiliary buys the cases and our Legion takes care of ink, the press and transfer papers. Any donations can be sent to Department marked for IMK in the memo.

This year we are handing out cocoa at Winter Games at Galina.

SPRING – Invite a Global Messenger to come to your meetings to tell about Special Olympics. **(THEY TRAIN FOR THIS.) BE SURE TO ASK THEM TO TELL ABOUT THE HOSPITALITY TENT, THEIR FAVORITE FOOD AND THE POPSICLES.)**

SUMMER – It is your turn to tell about Special Olympics and what we do. We always need volunteers to set up and take down. Tennis Tourny. Any food donations are welcome. We go through 18 gallons of sliced dill pickles, 20 gallons of black and green olives, 1,800 dozen of regular cookies, 1,500 dozen of sugarless cooking, 22 gallons of animal crackers, 35 cases of chips and pretzels and over 120 watermelon to cup.....just to name a few. It must come from somewhere. Maybe your post could send napkins, plates or cups. Money is good too. We are one of a few states that has this program and the only we can succeed is with your help. Illinois American Legion started serving the athletes at the first state games 50 years ago. This year we found the perfect spot to give out food. It had HOT running water, a large refrigeration unit, a place to wash dishes, AND bathrooms close by. We have jobs for people who can lift, sit and pass out food, keep the tea and water cups filled, wash dishes, wash tables and if you can run a golf cart—you can take food out to the outer events of the athletes. What a fun two days. Our AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS are WONDERFUL to let the athletes sit on their bikes and get their picture taken.

If we plan for each meeting, you can always have a report! Joy usually has something in The Department News each month, so you may need to subscribe so you will have a copy. Use this information for all year to refer to.

Check the brochure for the full calendar of monthly suggestions for what your local posts can do for Children and Youth. All our programs are in the brochure as well as lists of all district and division chairman. We are here to help!

Discussion: Cheri and Sue Johnson attended the National Children and Youth Conference. They talked about the grants give out this year. There was a total of 100 out of 185 given out. Each year the Child Welfare Section of Children and Youth have to vote on who gets what and how much. Many years ago, Garland Murphy gave the interest off of his mineral and oil rights in Texas to keep this program going. This adds up to \$700,000 each year.

One of the grants this year was called "UNITED THROUGH READING" that video tapes a soldier parent reading to their child when they are deployed. It keeps the family together when there is such a distance between them. You can view this and many other presentations online at <https://www.legion.org/youth/presentations>

Another grant was given to St. Vincent's "HEALING ARTS PROGRAM." It uses creative arts therapy for sick children and their parents. It gets them moving to reduce their pain.

Megan Sweet talked about some changes in the TFA program. They must be a member to get TFA Assistance. There is a once in a lifetime payment of no more than \$1,500.

www.legion.org/webelieve

April 3 "Purple Up" all schools wear purple to support the military children.

Discussed Post Consolidated Report. We will write a resolution for Spring DEC to tie it in with Post Certification forms. Must do both – no zero reports will be counted. Needs to be in MyLegion.org to fill in PCR.

Discussed purchasing 5 banks each for Legion, Auxiliary and SAL to be used for Christmas Program for Institutionalized Children. They will take up collections at meetings.

Dave moved we adjourn. Terry seconded. Passed

Adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Dave Johnson, Vice-Chairman