

CAVALCADE OF MEMORIES

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

The Cavalcade of Memories is a dwelling place of treasured keepsakes and memorabilia that tell the American Legion Auxiliary's history dating back to the very beginning. We do this to honor those members who have made significant differences in our organization and so that we may build upon their experiences. The Cavalcade of Memories repositories also serve as a resource for members, volunteers and the general public.

What can you do?

1. **Mirror the efforts of National Headquarters and promote your history.** The National Cavalcade of Memories collection is displayed throughout the headquarters building in Indianapolis. A tour of the building will reveal pictures of every Past National President, items donated by presidents, departments and members, pictures of special achievements, and a collection of various memorabilia and photos significant to our history. Please visit www.ALAforVeterans.org for a virtual tour.

Ideas:

Members

- **Share Auxiliary memorabilia with your unit/department.**
- **Visit www.ALAforVeterans.org for a virtual tour.**

Unit and Department

- **Appoint a Cavalcade of Memories chairman. Invite units and members to participate.**
- **Create displays that are attractive, interesting and relevant.**
- **Highlight historical/important/interesting events in your department.**
- **Include memorabilia of your honorary Junior presidents.**
- **Frame awards, and hang them.**
- **Rotate and refresh your displays occasionally.**
- **Use new technology to create and maintain digital images and records.**
- **Make an inventory of your collection. Be sure to include information such as who donated the item and when.**
- **Periodically feature a Cavalcade item in your newsletter.**
- **Attend local workshops to learn preservation and conservation methods.**
- **Display pictures of your presidents and your annual history books.**
- **Display pictures of members being honored for many years of service or having performed an outstanding service or activity.**
- **Partner with local museums, historical societies, or public libraries for consulting and displaying.**
- **Ask members to look through their homes for items to be included.**

2. If you do not currently have a Cavalcade of Memories, initiate the project.

Ideas:

Members

- Look through your own collection; assist a fellow member in searching through her collection, or search throughout the post/unit home for items.
- Gather photos and document the event(s) at which they were taken as well as the people in the photos.
- Learn the history of your unit, department and national organization.
- Determine if your materials should be displayed in the department or unit Cavalcade of Memories.

Unit and Department

- Search through memorabilia you may have stored in boxes in the basement of the post home or a member's home.
 - Collect decades of pictures and awards.
 - Find old pins, scrapbooks, history books, and great items of activities from years gone by.
 - Ask your membership to look through their personal belongings for items that could be included.
3. Become visible throughout your community and let them know the ALA's history and contributions to the community, state, nation and the world.

Ideas:

Members

- Talk about the Cavalcade of Memories at other community functions you attend.
- Invite people you know to tour the area.

Departments/Unit

- Partner with local museums, historical societies or public libraries for consulting and displaying advice. If there is no space available for your collection, determine if one of the above organizations may be interested in sharing some of their space for your Cavalcade.
- Invite the community and members to tour the area, familiarizing themselves with your history and accomplishments.

Cavalcade of Memories

4. History is more than a summary of events listed in a dusty book somewhere. As we look back on our achievements, let us make history come alive!

Additional Resources You Can Use

1. www.ALAforVeterans.org
2. <http://cavalcade-alafoundation.dreamhosters.com>

Judy Stancil, Chairman
PDP Doris Ray, member
PDP Joyce Willis, member

There is no report form due with this committee.

Awards to be given at Department Convention

Certificate and ribbons for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place will be awarded to the Unit that sends in the best report to our Committee.

**Send to: Judy Stancil
319 Bargate Dr
Cary, NC 27511-5331**