



Dewey Lowman Unit #109, Inc  
American Legion Auxiliary, Department of MD  
1610 Sulphur Spring Road  
Baltimore, Maryland 21227

May-June 2009 Auxiliary Newsletter

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hopefully you will have received this newsletter before our first fundraiser this year on April 26<sup>th</sup>. If so and you would like tickets to the Quarter Auction or know of anyone who would be interested in this fun event please contact me at 410-247-1121.

This will be my last newsletter of the year as your President for 2008-2009. I personally want to thank all of my Officers and Committee members who served with me to make the year such a great success. Without the support of not only them but YOU our members who came forth and devoted your time there would not be a Dewey Lowman Unit 109 Auxiliary.

Also, this is the last correspondence that you will receive before the election of new officers for the upcoming year. We are always looking for members to get involved either by holding an Office or being a Committee Chairperson.

If you can give some of your time to our many activities throughout the year please consider volunteering.

Thanks to all of the members who have taken their time for the various committees to be successful. When you volunteer and fulfill your accomplishments it gives you

self-satisfaction knowing that they were achieved.

I want to welcome all members that will be taking over the various responsibilities for the upcoming 2009-2010 year. I'm sure that they will be successful in all of their endeavors.

The American Legion Convention will be held this year from July 13-17<sup>th</sup> in Ocean City. All members are encouraged to attend.

We always meet on the second Tuesday every month except July and August. The last two meetings of the year will be held on May 12<sup>th</sup> and June 9<sup>th</sup>. The election of officers will be held at the June meeting. Please take the time and try to attend your Unit meetings.

For the last meeting of the year anyone who is willing to bring in their favorite dish is welcome to do so.

Lastly, it has been a pleasure to work with each and every one of you. Keep safe and have a great summer.

Jean McElroy, Unit President

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**AMERICANISM**

Two of the Unit’s Americanism Essay Contest winners were sent onto the Northern Central District for judging. We are happy to announce that Jacob Smith and Julia Atkinson both from Ascension school placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the District. Both are invited along with their families to the District Dinner on May 7<sup>th</sup> held at Parkville Post #183 where they will receive further certificates and cash prizes.

Jean McElroy, Chairman

**MEMBERSHIP**

As our membership year is drawing to a close, we would like to remind those who still have not paid their 2008-2009 dues. As of this date, we have about 40 delinquent members. For the new Auxiliary year 2009-2010, notices will be sent out in July from National Headquarters. This means that if you are still behind, you must pay your *old dues* before you can be current for the new year. NOTE: all 2009-2010 notices will have my home address for your mail-in payment. This will be a quick turn around in order to get your membership cards to you. All dues paid before the end of the year are ‘*Early Birds*’. I thank you in advance for being prompt. For all of you who are up-to-date -- *- Thanks!*

We welcome several new/transferred members. They are: Louise Goble, Donna Barardino, and Audrey Mitchell. Looking forward to seeing you at our meetings. **\*\*Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or a potential new member. I can be reached at 410-747-7018, or e-mail: [doris1712@Comcast.net](mailto:doris1712@Comcast.net).**

Doris Scheihing, Chairman

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**GIRLS STATE**

Our Auxiliary will be sponsoring Tara Washington from Post #279 to attend Girls State.

Loretta Rosenberger, Chairman

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

The final revisions for our Standing Rules have been sent to the Department Parliamentarian for her approval. Thanks to *everyone* who made comments and/or suggestions on the major revisions. Also to some new additions. This was a joint effort and I really appreciate your input. Copies will be available to members at the May meeting. If you cannot be at that meeting, you can call me and I will either mail you a copy or, preferably, e-mail one to you. Have a safe and great summer!

Doris Scheihing, Chairman

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**POT OF GOLD**

The Pot of Gold number drawn at the March meeting was number 381 – Mary Toutloff – Not Present - \$345.00

Unless you are in attendance and participate in the Pot of Gold you will not be a winner.

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**CASH CALENDAR**

Thanks to everyone who joined our April Cash Calendar fundraiser. All members participating truly support our community programs. The lucky winners will receive their checks in early May.

Jeanne Haney, Chairman

**BLIND PIG DRAWING**

Won by Joan Lucas - \$11.50

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**FOOD COORDINATORS**

**MAY** – Betty Hibbs, Jean McElroy

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**CHAPLAIN**

If there are any members or family members who are ill, please let me know so we can keep them in prayer. I can always be reached or leave a message at 410-796-7026. God bless you and keep you in good health.

Candi Hinebaugh, Chaplain

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**MAY IS POPPY MONTH – THE POPPY STORY**

*Long known as the corn poppy because it flourishes as a weed in grain fields, the Flanders poppy as it is now usually called, grew profusely in the trenches and craters of the war zone. In the World War I battlefields of Belgium, poppies grew wild amid the ravaged landscape. How could such a pretty little flower grow wild while surrounded by death and destruction? The overturned soils of battle enabled the poppy seeds to be covered, thus allowing them to grow and to forever serve as a reminder of the bloodshed during that and future wars.*

The poppy movement was inspired by the poem “*In Flanders Fields*” written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae of the Canadian forces in 1915 before the United States entered World War I. No definite organized sale of poppies on a nationwide scale was conducted in America until 1921, when the Franco-American Children’s League sold poppies

for the benefit of children in the devastated areas of France and Belgium. Madam Guerin was recognized as the ‘poppy lady from France’ sought and received the cooperation of the VFW of the U.S. early in 1922. The VFW conducted a poppy sale prior to Memorial Day in 1922, using only poppies that were made in France.

The VFW was the first veteran organization to promote a nationally organized campaign for the annual distribution of poppies assembled by American disabled and needy veterans. In 1924, the VFW patented the name “Buddy Poppy” for their version of the artificial flower. Buddy Poppies proceeds represents no profit to any VFW unit. All the money contributed by the public is used in the cause of veteran’s welfare, or for the well being of their needy dependents and the orphans of veterans.

Around the same year, the American Legion Auxiliary adopted the poppy as the organization’s memorial flower and pledged its use to benefit our servicemen and their families. Today, the poppy continues to provide a financial and therapeutic benefit to those hospitalized and disabled

veterans who construct them, as well as benefiting thousands of other veterans and their families.

Each nine-piece poppy is made by veterans for veterans in Auxiliary-sponsored Poppy Shops that supplement physical and psychological therapy needed by hospitalized and disabled vets. The Auxiliary provides the materials and the volunteers. The veteran makes the poppy and is paid a small amount for each painstakingly made flower. For some, it is their only income.

[Article from [www.cal-mim/poppy.htm](http://www.cal-mim/poppy.htm).]

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## **NATIONAL SECURITY**

**Lottery Letters** – a typical lottery scam is a scam that tells the recipient they have won a large sum of money in a lottery. The majority of these scams originate out of Canada or other foreign countries. The method of communication to the recipient can be a US postal letter or other channels of delivery such as Federal Express or UPS. The recipient is instructed to keep the notice secret and to contact an agent with a phone number provided. In addition to the letter, there is normally a check enclosed drawn on an account and bank normally not related to the lottery. To claim their winnings the recipient is instructed to call an agent at a designated telephone number. At this time, they will be instructed to either cash or deposit the enclosed check at their bank and to send a certain dollar amount via a wire transfer to cover any legal fees or taxes owed on the winnings. After this has occurred, the recipient has lost their money because once the wire is picked up on the other end, there is no trail to follow. The check that was sent is counterfeit and the recipient is responsible for those funds that were deposited or cashed. No winning money will be sent to the recipient. Remember most, if not all, foreign lotteries sent to the U.S. addresses through the mail are bogus and illegal. Most lottery solicitations from U.S. addresses are bogus also, except for State owned and operated. Always, remember you cannot win the lottery unless you played it.

**Lottery E-Mails** – E-mail lottery scams are increasing at an alarming rate. In a lottery scam, an unsuspecting consumer receives an e-mail claiming that they have won a lottery. In most cases it is a foreign lottery. In order to claim their winnings, the consumer must contact a claims agent within a short specified period of time. The claims agent will then request the consumer to complete a claims form to verify his or her identity. The consumer must fill out this form giving vital information and send it to the claims agent. Sometimes the request also required the consumer to provide copies of his

passport and driver's license. The con artist claims they need this information to verify the identity of the winner, when in reality they want to scam the consumer. At this point, with all of the information they have gathered, they can duplicate the identity of the consumer. In addition to all of the information provided, the consumer is required to wire through Western Union a sum of money to cover expenses such as taxes, legal expense, insurance fees, etc. The consumer is now a possible identity theft victim and is out the funds that were wired to the con artist.

**Sweepstakes** – It happens every day. Thousands of people are notified by mail or e-mail that they have won a prize or money. When you contact the company by phone to claim your winnings, the con artist will tell you that you are required to pay a “processing fee” and pressure you into giving your credit card number. **Do not do this.** The con artist may end up debiting thousands of unauthorized charges to your account. Beware if the con artist then instructs you to cover the processing fee by sending a check. Either way, you can be certain that your prize will cost you more than its worth, or it will not arrive at all.