

**DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN
2007 - 2008**

I. Auxiliary History

Goal: 100% participation, a history received from each Unit, District and Division.

1. Historians should utilize the Plan of Work as a primary guideline to assist in writing the histories.
2. Department of Texas Historian

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II. New Initiatives – Youth

Goal: Encourage students to make a historical connection with veterans in their family and in their everyday life, thereby connecting with the history of the United States.

Tactics:

1. Promote and initiate the Veterans History Project in as many schools and communities as possible.
2. Issue a timeline of U.S. President's birthdays to include military service, term in office dates and home state. (A veteran connection fostering appropriate respect and appreciation for the Office of President).
3. Generate and issue a timeline of United States historic events involving the Armed Forces so that students can directly relate to the veterans they know and care about thereby completing full circle their own connection to history.
4. Ask students to visit the "American memory" section on The Library of Congress' Web site (www.loc.gov) to reinforce enthusiasm for the history of the United States.

III. Support the American Legion -

Oratorical Contest

Goal: Encourage participation in the Oratorical Contest to expand student understanding of the United States Constitution and The Bill of Rights. A working understanding of the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights equals a clear understanding of the history of the United States.

Tactics:

1. Visit high schools armed with dates of area and state Oratorical Contests, brochures and The American Legion Web site address. Target social studies and English teachers and speech coaches.
2. Publicize that the Oratorical Contest is open to all high school students. Let them know about the prizes and scholarship awards.

IV. Collaborative Program and Activities – Veterans History Project

Goal: Encourage unit members to work with their Post and local students to preserve the wartime stories of ordinary people and veterans in their communities.

Tactics:

1. Visit and explore the Veterans History Project Web site. For example, click on “How to Participate,” then read “Take 5 Easy Steps.”
2. Encourage students to make a historic connection with veterans in their family and in their everyday life, thereby connecting with the history of the United States.
3. The Field Kit (for interviews) and the Memoir Kit are both available online at: <http://www.loc.gov/vets/kitmenu.html> in PDF format (approximately 18 pages).
4. Focus on first-hand accounts from the following wars: World War 1, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War, Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts and those who were actively involved in supporting war efforts (such as war industry workers, USO workers, flight instructors, medical volunteers, etc.).
5. Publicize the Veterans History Project: Involve libraries, schools and civic groups.
6. Host an open house at your post/unit to introduce the project and match students with veterans.
7. Setup possible sites and dates for the students to interview the veterans and assist them with the process.
8. Document, make copies of and showcase information at schools, libraries and Post homes and then submit the documentation to The Library of Congress.

V. Awards

Senior History Awards 2007–2008

1. A Certificate of Participation will be given to each Unit, District and Division Historian submitting a History.
2. A certificate of Merit and a Gift to the Unit Historian submitting the best History in each of the four Divisions.
3. A certificate of Merit and Gift to the District Historian submitting the best History in each of the four Divisions.
4. A certificate of Merit and a Gift to the Division Historian submitting the best History in each of the four Divisions in the Department of Texas.

Junior History Awards 2007-2008

1. A Certificate of Participation will be given to each Unit, District and Division Honorary Junior Historian submitting a Junior History.
2. A certificate of Merit and a Gift to the Unit Honorary Junior Historian submitting the best Junior History in each of the four Divisions.

3. A certificate of Merit and Gift to the District Honorary Junior Historian submitting the best Junior History in each of the four Divisions.
4. A certificate of Merit and a Gift to the Division Honorary Junior Historian submitting the best Junior History in each of the four Divisions in the Department of Texas.

VI. Historian Resources

1. **National magazine:** Issues of the national magazine provide information and ideas that can be used in preparing your history.
2. **American Legion Auxiliary History** volumes have been published. National has a limited amount of volumes in stock. The 1980-100- Auxiliary History book (355.213) is available through Emblem Sales by logging onto <http://emblem.legion.org> or dialing 888-453-4466. Check your department office and/or poll your membership and see if you can get a complete set for reference.
3. **Spreadsheet.** A spreadsheet of significant items in your Units history can also be a valuable contribution.
4. **Auxiliary Alphabet of Writing Tips.** This document can be found on pages 38-40 of the Public Relations Handbook. The handbook can be viewed by logging onto the Auxiliary's website (www.legion-aux.org). Copies of the handbook (355.212) are also available for purchase through Emblem Sales.
5. **The American Legion** Web site (www.legion.org). Open the site then click on "Useful Links" located in the left-side panel. Once in the "Useful Links" section, click on "Scholarship Information to spotlight the Oratorical Contest.
6. **The Library of Congress** Web site (www.loc.gov). Click on "American Memory" for ideas and information about history in everyday life.
7. **Veterans History Project** Web site (www.loc.gov/vets). Contains project Information, as well as submission guidelines.

VII. Annual Report Form and History Score Sheets.