

Children & Youth Quarterly Zoom Meeting

September 30, 2024

The meeting was opened by National Chairman Lisa Chaplin at 8:00pm ET with 47 members in attendance. After she introduced herself, Chairman Lisa explained the purpose of this committee is to work collaboratively with The American Legion to promote programs that protect, care for, and support children and youth, especially those of our military and veterans.

Chairman Lisa explained the areas of Emphasis for this committee this year will be:

1. Good Deed Awards – the Goal is to have at least one award from each Department. Submissions are to be done online.
2. Youth Hero Awards – again, the Goal is to have at least one award from each Department. Check with schools and churches for potential nominees. Watch social media, the news broadcasts, and newspapers for children who have performed a heroic act. Kristin informed everyone that award submissions are to be done exclusively online.
3. Proclamation for the Month of the Military Child – the Goal is to have one per Department. In addition to city and village proclamations, seek one from your state government.
4. Contributions to the Child Welfare Fund (CWF) – a program of The American Legion.

Chairman Lisa introduced Past National President Linda Newsome who is the ALA Liaison to the Child Welfare Foundation. She spoke about the Foundation – its purpose, how funds are raised and the grant process. She encouraged members to check out the information on the National Legion website regarding the Child Welfare Foundation. This past year the donations reported by the Legion Family were: American Legion \$114,317; American Legion Auxiliary \$89,345; and Sons of the American Legion \$489,185. The Child Welfare Foundation is one of the premier focuses of the SAL – this year they exceeded the \$10,000,000 mark in funds raised for CWF. PNP Linda encouraged the Auxiliary to raise funds in every Department in an effort to exceed the donation of The American Legion this year. She reported that annual donations are calculated based on those that are turned in to Department Auxiliary offices and received by National from June 1st through May 31st of each year. Annual Reporting is a 12-month process, and the dates vary from one Department to the next. Make sure to include your activities, awards, and donations in the year that fits your annual reporting.

PNP Linda spoke a bit about the grant process – who can request a grant and how they are selected. This year PNP Linda Newsome, National Chairman Lisa Chaplin, and National Vice-Chairman Marcy Jorae were involved in the grant selection process. There were 221 grant applications submitted; the initial evaluation process narrowed the number down to 26 grant applications to be reviewed for the final selection. Attached to these minutes is a document of CWF Grant Samples.

Chairman Lisa encouraged everyone to be aware of and join the Children & Youth Facebook Group to stay up to date on news and ideas for promoting this program. Department Chairmen are

asked to encourage the members of their own Departments to also join and follow the Facebook Group.

The Zoom Meeting then went to the 5 Breakout Sessions – 1 per Division where each Division Chairman could further discuss the Good Deed and Youth Hero awards and answer any questions the Department Chairmen had on the difference between the two, the qualifications and how to submit. They asked for input on what each Department was doing or planned to do. Following the minutes and Grant examples will be a list of ideas and information reported during the breakout sessions.

After the 25-minute allotted time for the Breakout Sessions, all members returned to the general Zoom Meeting for a wrap-up discussion.

Chairman Lisa closed the meeting encouraging everyone to continue to work the Children & Youth Program by looking for those children deserving of Youth Hero and Good Deed awards; supporting our children & youth, especially those who are in military and veteran families; raising funds for the Child Welfare Foundation and making plans to celebrate the Month of the Military Child/Purple Up in April. The meeting closed at approximately 8:45pm ET.

Submitted by Marcy Jorae, Vice-Chairman

CWF Grant samples

ASXL Rare Research Endowment Foundation of Portland, Maine, was awarded \$9,050 for their project “Educational Materials for AXSL-related disorders.” This grant will produce educational materials for parents and caregivers that will inform and empower them on how to best advocate for their children after receiving their diagnosis.

Adoption Exchange Association of Linthicum, Md., was awarded \$22,780 for its project, “Every Child Deserves a Family.” This grant will provide a website to share useful information with other agencies to facilitate adoptions.

Childhood Leukemia Foundation of Brick, N.J., was awarded \$29,700 for its project, “Hope Binders.” This project will offer 12 sections of templates and resources to help families begin to feel a degree of control over their circumstances. The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion support this grant.

Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation of Pittsburgh was awarded \$30,000 for its project, “Teach Higher for the Starz(I): Next Gen Online Resources for Child Liver Transplant Patients and their Families.” This grant seeks to create more patient and family tool kits, transplant care guides and educational videos for pediatric transplant patients that will help guide and support the patient and their family through their transplant journey. The Eight and Forty support this grant.

Cornelia de Lange Syndrome of Avon, Conn., was awarded \$26,500 for its project, “Reaching out: Resources for Parents with Children with Cornelia de Lange Syndrome.” This project seeks to

print and distribute valuable resources and information that is relevant to parents and caregivers who have children with Cornelia de Lange Syndrome.

National Braille Press of Boston was awarded \$19,000 for its project, "Read Books! Because Braille Matters." This grant will fund the creation of a U.S. tactile map so that visually impaired children can learn about geography and the United States. And it will fund a braille book for a visually impaired child. The Eight and Forty support this grant.

Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky of Lexington, Ky., was awarded \$3,193 for its project, "Project Outreach: Supporting Military Families." This project will fund the printing and distribution of materials regarding child sexual abuse prevention.

Songs of Love Foundation of Forest Hills, N.Y., was awarded \$25,000 for its project, "Songs of Love Outreach." This grant will fund the printing and distribution of profile forms and song request forms that will help create personalized songs for seriously ill children up to the age of 21 with no charge to them. This grant will also update and maintain the website which provides detailed information on how to request a song.

Tourette Association of America of Bayside, N.Y., was awarded \$11,300 for its project, "Newly Diagnosed Backpack Program." This grant will provide newly diagnosed children with Tourette Syndrome a backpack containing vital information and resources guide for children and parents so they can better understand their diagnosis.

Breakout Session Remarks

Central Division – Carol T. Robinson, Chairman

One Good Deed Award was reported. The Chairman emphasized how to distribute information from National > Departments > Districts > Units, including Juniors in the process.

Eastern Division – Kelly Moyer, Chairman

One Youth Hero award was reported. Many Departments are collecting for CWF. Also mentioned were diaper collections for a diaper bank, collection of personal hygiene items for homeless girls, blanket donations to NICUs, donations of arts and craft supplies for a weeklong camp, and Halloween events.

Northwestern Division, Patti Coleman, Chairman

One Department is holding a CWF piggy bank decorating contest. A contest for Posts/Units/SALs to create NEW events to attract families to come to a Legion Post to see what it has to offer them in the community was reported in another Department. Distribution of Poppy Coloring Pages and info to first graders prior to Veterans Day events is planned in one of the Departments. Furnishing a newly opened home for female veterans and their children with blankets, toys, etc. is a goal of another Department.

Southern Division, Carol Westergren Chairman

Only 2 Department Chairmen attended, presumably due to the weather. They are working on Good Deed awards and excited for April and Purple Up.

Western Division, Joan Hernandez, Chairman

Three Youth Hero awards and three Good Deed awards were reported in this Division, along with filling backpacks, and CWF donation challenges.



Children & Youth e-Newsletter

Issue No. 2

CENTRAL DIVISION CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The Children & Youth Committee promotes programs in collaboration with the American Legion that protect, care for, and support children and youth, especially those of our military and veterans.

Four Focus Points –

Good Deed Award – would like one from every department, but more is always better!

- Youth should demonstrate a leadership role in community service
- A specific deed should be present
- Winners receive a certificate

Youth Hero Award - would like one from every department, but more is always better!

- Youth should demonstrate a physical act of valor
- Winners receive a medal and certificate

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation: www.legion.org/cwf/

- Educate members and the general public about the Child Welfare Foundation (CWF), its mission, and to provide financial assistance to The American Legion in their efforts to award grants to youth-serving nonprofit organizations.

Proclamation

- Encourage your units to contact the city or county officials to request a proclamation for the Month of the Military Child.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN AND BE SAFE!

2024-2025
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Children & Youth
Committee

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