

Unit 372  
2019-2020  
Year End Report

As the 2019-2020 year ends, I would like to recap our year and why you should become a member if you are not already!!

This little Unit continues to push forward and experienced a great deal of growth this year. According to ALAMAS we have 28 members, we averaged 25% at each meeting, which we were very proud of.

Highlights of some of our successes:

- AEF, I couldn't be prouder, again, we averaged 10% in attendance, however we collected \$38.00. That's OUTSTANDING!!
- We made great strides regarding poppies, with donations of poppies, bookmarks and flyers and flounders field to the local High School and this year adding a local Elementary School, We also made a donation of poppies to the Mandarin Arts Society who held a POW ceremony that the Legion and Auxiliary participated in. In total we distributed 500 poppies and raised \$55.00. We had a Junior participate in the poster contest.
- Chaplin, our opened and closed each meeting with an inspirational prayer, sent cards and completed a high volume of field work.
- Americanism, we didn't stop with just saying the Pledge before each meeting, our mission was teaching our youth the importance of Americanism and what that flag stands for. We adopted the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Safety Patrol to ensure they had a complete understanding of that precious flag they raise and lower each day. We provided flag etiquette books and the history of the flag. Additionally we worked with our 2 adopted 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes who made patriotic cards which were delivered to Mission BBQ, those cards were so respected, they were in amazing condition at the end of the day, and many commented how moved they were, as was I when I read them. This was a NEW PROGRAM
- VA&R, we participated in the newly Legion commissioned Stamp Program, 5 members participated in this program and we collected over 6,000 stamps. This was a NEW program for us...Outstanding job by our members.
- National Security, originally we didn't have a member to process the coupons, so we provided stacks of coupons to another Unit for processing, in total we sent over 3' of coupons, then we had a lady who asked if she could do them for us, the value for one month was \$56,000, we had members participate in Blood Drives, and POWA/MIA ceremonies.
- Legislative, we sent approximately 8 emails to Mayor Curry, the outcome was receiving our 100-year resolution. We shared legislative issues in one meeting.
- Juniors, we have 3 paid junior members, one member worked actively with the Poppy Program.

- Community Service, so proud of how these members volunteered or spread the word of the American Legion Auxiliary in every aspect of their volunteerism. We had members work hours in a hurricane shelter, we had a community play actor who actively and proudly shared she was an ALA member, we also had a member who worked with the Author who wrote Craig & Fred while he was at the FSCJ Author Series.
- Children and Youth, in this arena, we collected approximately 60 box tops and 12 pounds of soda tabs.
- Education, we believe we made a huge impact in our community, we took on the 10 for 10 challenge, (10 school supplies for 10 students) not only was this achieved, it was exceeded as we provided much needed school supplies to every student and teacher the entire time the physical building was open. Additionally, we sent many surprise items to our adopted classes, such as cookies, cupcakes, Santa/Elf pops and when the children were working from home, we sent small craft ideas to the teacher. We were most proud of our Kindness Jar Project, we purchased 48-quart mason jars, colored paper and ALA pencils and plenty of stickers. The children could decorate their kindness jars then they were tasked to write something kind about each fellow classmate. The teacher and I read with such delight as these children really thought about what they wrote. Kindness was surly shared! This was a new program.
- Leadership, knowledge was shared to all members “tidbits” training was held at each meeting, we had an atmosphere open to sharing of ideas.

All in all, we sure had a lot to be proud of. The year over year growth of this small but amazing, caring group of members never ceases to amaze me. They have asked for tasks such as recognizing birthdays, calling members just to ensure we have the correct information and let them know we miss them if we haven't seen them in a while. Members have already come up with exciting ideas for the 2020-2021 year that I'm confident they will achieve. We expect more amazing growth to report.

For God and Country  
 Respectively Submitted  
 Kathy Helmly  
 Unit 372 President