***Dollars for Survival***

    

North Carolina American Legion Auxiliary Members……...**your help and generosity are needed!**

The 2019-2020 budget presented and approved at our June 2019 Department Convention reflects a projection of our operating at a loss of $11,825 for the year. Declining membership always puts pressure on our financial position, but upcoming events and changes in our overhead structure are making it even more difficult.

As many of you have already heard, the NC Legion sold its building in downtown Raleigh and will be relocating a few miles from the existing HQ later this year. We are fortunate The Legion is allowing us to move with them and space in the new location is being configured for us. However, the new space will be MUCH smaller than our existing office, and the storage space for records and supplies will even more limited. The NC Legion has been providing us with office space at no charge for many, many years, but the arrangement once the move takes place will require a monthly rent of $400 on our part. In addition, the fee we pay to The Legion for use of its copier and postage meter will also increase from $325 per quarter to $500 per quarter. Those changes alone account for an increase in our annual operating costs of $5,500.

In addition to those new and on-going obligations, we will experience many expenses related to preparing for the move and the move itself…..such as shredding costs which be necessary for proper disposal of decades of documents containing confidential information, the cost of movers to actually take our furniture, fixtures, files, etc. to the new location and, of course, there will likely be other costs incurred in getting our new office operational. It’s impossible to accurately identify and project all such expenses, but we must be prepared nevertheless.

At the time of this writing, our total membership for the 2018-2019 year is 5,887 ----- just a tad more than the $5,500 increase in our annual obligation to The NC Legion for official rent and equipment usage. That expense equates to just under $1 per member.

So, in order to help fund the year’s expenses and in hopes of not having to dip into reserves, we have established a new fund or incentive***…..”Dollars for Survival***”. The premise is simple: we are asking each Unit to send a donation equal to $1 for each of its members at June 30, 2019. By doing so and by earmarking those donations as “***Dollars for Survival***”, you can be a part of the “rescue team”.

After hearing the budget presentation and the announcement of this request at our recent Department Convention, an individual member and several Unit officers immediately pledged their support. In fact, one unit has promised a donation of at least $1 per member AND has also committed to donate a portion of its proceeds from an ongoing fundraiser toward this fund.

This year’s new and special expenses will definitely put pressure on our financial position, but you and/or your Unit can help us defray some of the costs with your generosity. Be a part of that Rescue Team -- please contribute to ***“Dollars for Survival”!***

Janice H. MacLeod

Chairman, Finance Committee