

**COMMUNITY SERVICE
2017-2018**

Terri Ouellette, Chairman
319 Raymond Rd.
Candia, NH 03034
(603)305-3890 email: Terriolet@aol.com

What is this program and why do we have it?

The Community Service program demonstrates who we are, what we do, and why we matter. By being visible in our communities, we raise awareness of the ALA and its mission.

What can you do?

- Become visible in your community.
- Get involved in community service projects.
- Always wear your American Legion Auxiliary apparel or pin while volunteering in the community to let people know who we are and why we matter.
- Get involved with your neighbors and those outside our Legion family by volunteering at your local library, food pantry, domestic violence shelter, senior citizen centers, nursing homes, etc.
- Volunteer with your local Meals on Wheels to deliver meals on days when they are typically closed (examples: Christmas and Thanksgiving)
- Organize and participate in service projects for veterans, service members, their families and local community programs on ALA suggested days of service.
- Attend and represent the Auxiliary at special celebration events in the community such as holiday parades, grand openings of community facilities and community leader recognition ceremonies.
- Volunteer to organize or assist with your community's Veterans Day observance.

My project: SOX OF LOVE:

This project is great for donations to food banks, homeless shelters, nursing homes, Liberty House, Harbor Homes, homes for battered women.

Grab a new pair of socks and stuff each sock with appropriate items. As an examples, toiletries in one sock and snacks in the other. Tie together with a ribbon and donate to the above places. These socks can be stuffed with age appropriate items for men, women, teenagers and children. The possibilities are endless. All you need is a little imagination to make it special. Another idea would be to adopt a Unit in one of the southern states that had been hit hard with the major hurricanes this season. If that unit has the space to take these donated items, they

could be sent there. Another thing that could be put into the socks would be gift cards, especially for the people who have lost almost everything to the devastating weather that occurred.

National Days of Service:

National Days of Service are certain days of the year, designated either by the U.S. Congress or a service organization, which aim to inspire individuals across the country to make an impact in their local communities by serving on the same day. The ALA suggested Days of Service are:

9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance

Date: September 11 (annually)

Make a Difference Day

Date: Annually on the last Saturday of October

Veterans Day

Date: November 11 (annually)

Family Volunteer Day

Date: Annually the Saturday before Thanksgiving

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Date: Annually on the third Monday in January

National Volunteer Week

Date: Usually the third week of April

AWARD:

Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Community Service Program

- Award: Citation Plaque
- Presented to: One unit in each division (5)
- Materials and Guidelines:
 - Include pictures and newspaper articles.

Additional Resources You Can Use:

- Community Service Committee page of the national website: www.ALAforVeterans.org.
- ALA Service Not Self Volunteer Toolbox
- Your national Community Service committee members (see Community Service program page on the national website or Annual supplement for contact information)
- The national Community Service committee Facebook group, search "ALA Community Service".