

Ottawa American Legion Auxiliary Unit 33
Submitted by Idalia Stricklin, Secretary
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The Ottawa American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Unit 33 met on Monday, April 4th. The opening ceremonies were conducted by President Firlik. Chaplain Barb Olson gave the opening Prayer. Secretary/Treasurer Stricklin took Roll call of Officers followed by the reading of the Minutes of the March meeting and the Treasurers report.

Americanism Essay winners, their parents and family members were in attendance. President Firlik introduced each student, had them read their winning Essay and presented them each a monetary award. Class 1 – 7th. & 8th. grade winners were – 1st. Place, Sydney Craig; 2nd. Place, Chloe Garkey and 3rd. Place, Marianna Carus and Sydney McAllister were tied. These students were all from Shepherd Middle School. Also in attendance from Shepherd Middle School was Ms. Dannenberger, the student's teacher and Principal Kimes. Class 3 – 11th. & 12th. grade winners were – 1st. Place, Jacob Weiss – Ottawa High School; 2nd. Place – Aurora Flavel; 3rd. Place, Ryan Donahue and Cate Thompson was tied. The latter three students are from Marquette Academy. The Essay Theme was "Should there be term limits for our U.S. Senators and Representatives?"

Also in attendance was our 12th. District President, Janet Bacon from Genoa, Illinois. She spoke about the importance of each of our memberships and our involvement in the American Legion Auxiliary. On the National level membership has been on a rapid decline over the past several years. It is being projected, that at the rate of decline, in 5 years our organization will be no more. We need to keep our memberships current and we need more new members, as well. She also brought us up-to-date on what other things have been going on in her year.

The Corn Beef & Cabbage Dinner that was held on Friday, March 11th. was very profitable. President Firlik thanked those who helped. She also thanked those that helped prepare and serve the Gail Cross Memorial Easter Dinner on Easter Sunday.

A donation was made to Hope For All, a local non-profit organization.

In other business, President Firlik reminded us of the upcoming meeting of the planning committee for the Octoberfest will be Saturday, March 12th. at 1:00 PM at the Legion Post Home. All members of the American Legion Family are invited to attend and get involved. President Firlik also gave a brief report on the recent American Legion Auxiliary Patriotic Conference that she and Idalia Stricklin attended in March, in Normal, Illinois. It was a very interesting and informative meeting. The speakers were wonderful.

Our next meeting will be Monday, May 2nd. at 7:00 pm at the Legion Post Home.

The closing prayer was given by Chaplain Olson and the meeting was adjourned.

