

Auxiliary News –LeAnne Essick

It was great to see everyone at the Fall Booster in New Bern. New Bern is an awesome place to visit and reconnecting with our NCRLCA friends and families from across North Carolina is always great. The Auxiliary National Program for 2014-2015 is “A Program of Miracles, The face of Alzheimer’s”. I personally think this is an awesome program to be involved with. I challenge each of you to check it out. I was asked to speak about Americanism – Volunteerism. As I researched “Volunteerism”, I seemed to be drawn into “Volunteerism”, a word I really never thought that much about and struggled with saying it the first few times correctly.

Volunteerism – the use or involvement of volunteer labor, especially in community services. Volunteering is serving a cause greater than one’s self, a way of giving back to the community for the many blessings and courtesies that you have received. It means taking the time to help someone who cannot help themselves, and providing those who need just a little boost to get started back in the right direction. It means taking a few minutes of your own time, but for those who struggle, it can mean absolutely EVERYTHING. It gives you an opportunity to provide HOPE, BALANCE and CONSIDERATION to others.

Volunteering has an enormous impact on the health and wellbeing of communities worldwide. Just think of all the ways volunteering can make a difference in a day of someone’s life.

- ❖ Volunteering to help keep our neighborhoods, parks, rivers and waters clean and safe for everyone.
- ❖ Volunteering to tutor, teach or mentor children and adults.
- ❖ Coaching community sports.
- ❖ Volunteering to help foster dogs, cats and many animals. To help with adoptions in your homes, animal shelters or rehabilitation centers.
- ❖ Volunteering to help deliver critical services such as volunteer fire fighters, to man phone lines at domestic violence or assault centers.
- ❖ Delivering meals to home bound seniors.
- ❖ Volunteering your time at homeless shelters, hospitals or even in disaster areas worldwide to help rebuild houses or schools, or aide in helping the sick or less fortunate.

IMAGINE THE IMPACT OF VOLUNTEERS!

Just imagine if ONE day ALL volunteers just simply decided not to show up? What would happen? What would our communities, schools, churches, medical centers look like? What basic needs would go unmet? And what opportunities to grow, learn and thrive would be lost?

VOLUNTEER TODAY

My favorite, all time author, is Dr. Seuss, and I think he said it best! *“Oh the wonderful way I feel”* you’ll cheer, *“Cuz I just went out and volunteered!”*