



□ *Editor's note: This is one in a series of feature stories concerning organizations that benefit the Imperial area. Volunteering in a community, through organizations, is a way to pay back for the benefits that the community offers an individual.*

**By Carolyn Lee**

### ***The Imperial Republican***

The Imperial VFW Auxiliary is a low profile but very active organization in town. There are 69 members volunteering for many events that benefit not only veterans, but residents of Imperial.

The local organization formed in 1946. The national organization was established in 1914.

The members of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars set out to serve the veterans of this country and their communities in honor of the sacrifices and commitment of every man and woman who has served in uniform.

President Sue Moore said those who can join the Auxiliary must have an affiliation with a person who has served in a foreign war, such as a father, mother, son, daughter, step-daughter, grandfather, etc.

Officers at the local level, besides Moore, include Senior Vice President Roma Jean Burtis, Junior Vice President Faye Thoendel, Treasurer Kris Musick, Secretary Teresa Groff, Conductress Roxanne Miller, Chaplain Darlene Jens and Guard Sarah Morse.

The VFW Auxiliary promotes a number of events that benefit students. Coming up at the start of the school year is the Patriot's Pin for junior high students, a 300-word essay with the 2012-13 theme "What Would I Tell Our Founding Fathers?"

The Voice of Democracy contest, for grades 9-12, has a theme this year of "Is Our Constitution Still Relevant," with a three to five-minute speech.

Next spring a Creative Patriotic Art contest is held for elementary students.

The Auxiliary also sponsors a Make a Difference Day with a food drive in October; Buddy Poppy Day in early summer, and college scholarships for children of veterans or members of the Auxiliary.

The members distribute presents to veterans at Christmas; May Day baskets to veterans and preschool students; provide community service, and donate to the Military Assistance Program, for families of those serving overseas who are in need.

To become a member, Moore said any officer may be contacted.