

Department of
Mississippi

Magnolia

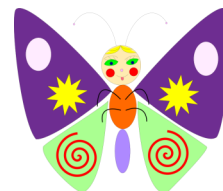


AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY

Serving veterans, their families and their communities

Monthly
Newsletter

April 2016



GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



April is here and we hope to see all of you at the Area Conferences. We want to hear what our units have accomplished during the year. Unit Presidents, I will need a copy of your year-end reports. Make sure you have three copies, as the Historian and Secretary will need copies also. Remember that most of your reports for year-end are due by May 1st. Check your Plans of Action and follow the

directions. We need to get in as many reports as possible so we can report to National on what our Mississippi units have accomplished. I know that most of you have been involved in a lot of work around the state so don't miss out on getting recognized for your dedication to our community and our veterans.

Remember this is the time when we start thinking of District President and Vice President. **THESE ARE IMPORTANT POSITIONS!** The Vice Presidents will be elected and installed at the Spring Conferences. The District Presidents are **ONLY** nominated at the Spring Conferences. They are elected by the general

membership and installed at the Department's State Convention. Please, ladies, give this a lot of thought as you will be working closely with ALL the units in your DISTRICT.

Our National President Sharon Conatser will be visiting April 25th, 26th and 27th. Plans are being made and hopefully we will have information at our Spring Conferences if not before.

March was a busy month—we had our Happy 97th American Legion Birthday (God Bless our Veterans), St. Patrick's Day, Spring began and Easter. What a wonderful month.

Thank you for your dedication to our organization and keep a SMILE on your face and have Goodwill to others.

For God and Country,

Anita McAllister
Department President

1ST VICE PRESIDENT-PROGRAMS COORDINATOR



I am ready for spring and ready to get out and get busy. Most of all pursue some new memberships, What about you?

Now that the chill is gone, I hope all is ready for spring.

I am ready

Keep in mind those of you who committed to serve on various committees, please send me your volunteer response ASAP. Thank you in advance. Let us begin the year with a positive and productive attitude.

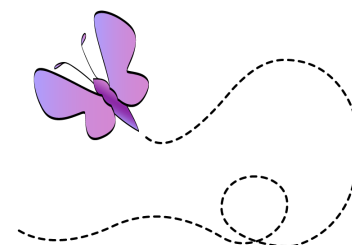
Thanks to all of you who showed me extensive support in joining the various committees.

I am looking forward to working with you as a team of love. Keep in mind together we stand, divided we fall.

I will be seeing you at our spring conferences.

God bless each of you and God bless America.

Eva Ford, 1st Vice



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Spring Central Area
Conference, April 9,
Columbus Post 69

Spring Northern Area
Conference, April 16,
Aberdeen Post 26

Spring Southern Area
Conference, April 23,
Gautier-Vancleave Post 1992

National President's Visit,
April 25-27 on Gulf Coast

2ND VICE PRESIDENT-VA&R CHAIRMAN



I know we still have several months but as big as this event is, we need to keep it on the front burner.

I'm talking about the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in October 2016 right here in Jackson, MS.

If you can help during this week long

event, please let President Anita or Ms. Nancy know now. We need "all hands on deck" for this so please volunteer a few hours of your time. After all this organization is all about...VETERANS!

I hope in the months to come we ALL get back on the same page and do what is right for this organization.

The year-end report is due to me by 1 May 2016.

Please send those reports in so I can share everything you do with National.

chiefangie2013@gmail.com 220 SCR
18-5, Bay Springs, MS 39422 OR 956
CR 17, Bay Springs, MS 39422

For God and Country,

Angie Baughman
2nd Vice President

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER – DEPT. CHAPLAIN



Greetings and Salutations! It takes all of us to achieve our goals for the American Legion Auxiliary to be successful. We all have to place forward an effort in this great organization because "Teamwork Makes the Dream Work." It takes everyone to work together to preserve harmony and peace in everything that we do.

I am looking forward to receiving more items for the President's Prayer Booklet. Please send prayers, poems, articles or just a card with your Unit's name, Unit's number and your name on it. It would mean a great deal to me and to you, as well. It would be pleasing to receive something from all of the Units. In addition, please send a list of your deceased members by May 1, 2016. I would like for everyone to be included at the Memorial at State Convention.

Heavenly Father, We thank you for your guidance in the American Legion Auxiliary. I ask that you guide us in all that we do and let all we do praise you. Please strengthen and comfort our members and their family members are sick, in bereavement or just need a touch from. To "You" be all the glory, honor and praise. In your name we pray. Amen.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve as your Chaplain. Remember: "One Team, One Goal" and "Teamwork Makes the Dream Work. "

For God and Country,

Charlotte Williams, Chaplain

DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN—FOR THE RECORD



In March, we celebrated the birthday of the American Legion. Our Units took this time to acknowledge and recognize members' accomplishments and years of service. April is Children and Youth Month—lots to do!

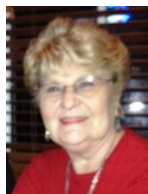
I am looking forward to getting reports from you all in order to prepare the Department History for submission to National. Please, Ladies, send me your information. I know this sounds like a broken record, but if you don't send the information, I don't have it to submit.

There are some great things being done for our Veterans, and I am excited to find out what you are doing.

Flying High for God and Country,

Tina Hurst, Historian

EDUCATION



We had three applications for the Children of Warriors National President's Scholarship. The winner will be given a \$500.00 Scholarship from the Department at State Convention, and her application is forwarded to the National Education Chairman. Last year we only had one application, so we were very happy to have three this year. Let's have five next year.

I was honored to help Joe and Barbara Kersh with the Oratorical State Final at Millsap's College in March; it was awesome. The Girl State Committee is busy, busy getting everything ready for Girl State.

We have so many great programs, it makes me very proud to be a member of this great organization.

For GOD and Country,

June Laws, Chairman

GIRLS STATE



Have YOU turned in your Girls State Applications YET? It's TIME!

Due to Spring Breaks and Easter Holidays interfering with some units' in finalizing their delegate selections, we extended the deadline to April 15. **WE NEED PARTICIPANTS!** We need your unit to step up and work this program, please! Let's not have one eligible young lady miss this opportunity for leadership.

Unit instructions for processing your delegates to the Department are spelled out on the 2nd page of the application packet. Please follow those instructions, particularly the deadline dates.

Why Deadlines? Let me reiterate—We must, as Units, follow established deadlines as we've got to know who is coming earlier than in previous years (waiting to the last minute is a nightmare), AND the delegates need more time, after acceptance, to prepare to attend, especially if they will be campaigning!! I know there may be special situations—all you have to do is talk to me about it. We'll work it out.

Need Funding Assistance: If your unit has done due diligence in securing funding for registration fees for your girls, but still are a little short, please **CALL** me now. Let me know your situation and what you've already done. Hopefully, I can help you...talk to me, please.

Orientations: Again, we encourage Units to come together as a district for Orientation...a team from the Girls State Committee or others who are seasoned staff of the program, will be happy to come to your District and put on the orientation. Ask a Unit who typically holds orientation yearly to serve as host unit! But please don't wait until the last minute to prepare your girls!

Work together as a District, perhaps through your District President, and let's prepare these young ladies properly for an experience of a lifetime!

Orientation Packets: Each delegate accepted and processed thru the Department Office will receive a confirmation email from me, along with the necessary forms they must complete and bring to Girls State on June 5 to complete their registration. They'll also receive a scholarship application and a what-to-bring list. These items are what you will cover in your orientation. We will be communicating with our delegates via email in the coming couple of months regarding various topics. It is our hope to help them be prepared. That being said, I will email these same materials to your unit for your use at orientations—just let me know who to send to! **ASAP!**

Ladies, please work this program and find us some really good delegates...let's give this program an opportunity to grow and be of great service to our young ladies in this state. We need **YOU** to help us be a success. Continued thanks for your efforts!

For God and Country,

Angela Kilcrease, Chairman/Director

CAVALCADE OF MEMORIES



Cavalcade of Memories chairmen it is time for you to BOAST, BRAG, and PRAISE your units work for the year! I will need a comprehensive report from you by May 1st to send to National.

My address is 206 Carolyn Drive, Raymond, MS 39154. You also can email me at starkeydee @ hotmail.com

For God and Country,

Dee Starkey, Chairman

KATHY DUNGAN STEERING COMMITTEE



We had our March Cash Bash Drawing in March and the lucky winners were: Timmy Chancelor, ticket #170 for \$200.00; Pat Baughman, ticket #120 for \$300.00 (Pat donated his money back...Thanks Pat!)and Emile Ladnier Unit 42 (Ocean Springs), ticket #415 for \$500.00. Our next drawing will be at Central Area Conference on April 9.

Don't forget to bring your items for the June 4th Car Show and Sponsor Awards. If anyone needs any Sponsor Award sheets or info just let me know at junebuglaws@yahoo.com.

For God and Country,

June Laws, Chairman

DEPARTMENT SUPPORT FUND



Hello, Butterflies! The Department Support Fund has two challenges left for State Convention in July. (1) The districts that have \$1,000.00 or more turned in to Nancy Sanders by Monday before State Convention will be entered in a drawing for \$100.00; and (2) the unit with the highest turn in to Nancy by Monday before State Convention will win \$100.00.

So far the units that have turned in to Nancy as of Mid-Winter are as follows:

AT THIS TIME WE HAVE TURNED IN TO NANCY THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS:

Unit Name	Unit #	AMT
Aberdeen	26	\$ 200.00
Columbus	69	90.00
Bay Springs	71	449.00
Vicksburg	213	100.00
Gautier-Vanceleave	1992	200.00

DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE, SILENT AUCTION, HAT PARADE, AND SOCK HOP AT STATE CONVENTION!!!!!!

For God and Country,

Jackie Baughman, Chairman

MEMBERSHIP



Congratulations, Mississippi! We finally made it over the 70% goal, coming in at 71.27% this week. Way to go! I know you are working hard. We are currently #36 on the National report. Now, let's work on meeting the 75% goal. We need 152 members to make 75%.

Congratulations to Districts 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8 for having NO ZERO Units. Districts 3, 6, and 9 keep working on those Zero Units. Every member counts.

There is still a chance for you to get some money for your units by being 102% 30 days prior to National Convention and earn \$150.00 for your unit. All of the 100% units need to be working toward that goal.

I know that the goal increase this year has hampered some of the units from meeting their goal. Forget the goal increase for the moment and concentrate on meeting your goal for last year. Make last year's goal first and then we can worry about the increase. Keep making those calls and retaining those members. We can't afford to lose them.

For God and Country,

Diane Belue, Chairman

Every Time A Bell Rings, A Unit Gets Its Wings!

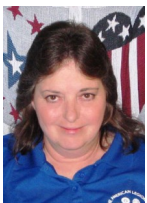
100% Units

Greenwood 200 Lakeshore 152 Mound Bayou 220

100% Plus Units

Corinth 6	Aberdeen 26	Iuka 15	Tishomingo 144	Louisville 62
Pontotoc 16	Meridian 21	Brandon 68	Indianola 2	Nesbit 1990
Philadelphia 138	Lucedale 53	Bay Springs 71	Ocean Springs 42	Jackson 91
West Point 212				

CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Hello everyone, and Happy Spring!

As you all know April is Children and Youth Month. Let us take the opportunity to recognize the children and youth in our communities that have done good deeds. Remember a child can do a GOOD deed by helping someone in the community. When your unit finds a child that has done a good deed, please award that child with a GOOD deed card. **Enclosed in this newsletter** is a sheet of GOOD deed cards that you can copy and use at your units.

We need to remember the Star Spangled Kid--to teach today's children and youth about respecting the U.S. Flag and the Constitution. After all, the children and youth are our future leaders, and they need our guidance.

As you know, end-year reports are due to me before but no later than May 1, 2016. If your unit has taken pictures of the activities you all have done with C&Y, please send them along with your unit's end-year report. Hope to hear from all the units by May 1.

God Bless America and our children and youth,

Ruth Benson, Chairman

**BE SURE TO LOOK FOR THE ATTACHED GOOD DEED CARDS,
FRONT AND BACK SIDES!**

NATIONAL PRESIDENT SHARON CONASTER'S VISIT
TO THE GULF COAST OF MISSISSIPPI
APRIL 25 - 27. 2016

APRIL 25th Check into room at the Scarlet Pearl

1:30 p.m. Lunch at Mary Mahoney's Old French House Restaurant (Est. 1737); RSVP Mary Ried (228-324-9325)

3:00 p.m. Visit Katrina Memorial and the Biloxi Visitor Center

4:30 p.m. (tentatively scheduled) WLOX Television interview

7:15 p.m. Dinner at the Beau Rivage, 875 Beach Blvd. Biloxi, MS

APRIL 26th

7:30 a.m. - Breakfast at The Scarlet Pearl

8:30 a.m. – Tour the coast From Biloxi to Waveland American Legion Memorial on the beach.

9:30 a.m. – Tour "Bay St. Louis Train Station" in Old town Bay St. Louis: View the Mardi Gras museum and the Alice Moseley art exhibit. (The Train Depot) From the Trail Depot, we will travel to downtown Bay St. Louis for shopping.

12:00 p.m. – Lunch at Post 139 Bay St. Louis, MS

2:00 p.m. - Visit to the Biloxi V.A. Blind Center

5:30 p.m. – Happy hour at Gautier-Vancleave Post 1992, Dinner to follow*

* April 26th, the night of the dinner for National President, also will be a Homecoming for Department Commander Robert Endt and Department President Anita McAllister. Public is invited.



Clock Raffle – Win \$500.00 \$3.00 a minute or \$45.00 for a 15 minute page

The clock has been wound and sealed in a box at the Fall Southern Area Conference in Hattiesburg. The box has been at ALA Department headquarters and will be opened at State Convention. Whoever has the time the clocked stopped on will win \$500.00. All other proceeds will go to Kathy Dungan's campaign fund.

The Steel Magnolias (Past Department President's Club) is having the raffle to help PDP Kathy Dungan with her campaign for the office of National President – 2019.

The process to becoming a National President is a long one. There are many years of Chairing National Committees, when you are appointed Children & Youth Chairman you start the process of going up the chairs. Next are VA&R Chairman, National Vice President, and then National President.

Kathy has been appointed Children & Youth Chairman this year and is starting up the chairs. She is going to need all of us to help her accomplish this goal.

Mississippi has never had a National President but has come close once before. Department Parliamentarian, Jeannette Ghetti, reached the office of National VA&R Chairman and could not go any further due to health problems.

Both ladies have dedicated much of their lives to the American Legion Auxiliary and are very knowledgeable about it process and programs. They are very well liked and respected at a National level to be selected to proceed to National President.

Kathy will represent Mississippi proudly and make a fantastic National President. The Post and Units stood behind and supported Jimmy Dean for National Commander, and Jeannette Ghetti for National President, now it is time to support Kathy Dungan. We need to let The American Legion Family know how proud we are to have a great candidate for National President from Mississippi.

Area Conferences is upon us, so talk to your Units and Posts about supporting Kathy and taking a chance on the clock raffle. For only \$45.00 you could win \$500.00.

*Joyce Porter, PDP
Steel Magnolias*

Spring Central Area Conference

Thomas S Patterson Post 69

308 Chubby Drive, Columbus, MS 39705

Registration: 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Legion - \$10.00 Auxiliary - \$13.00

Opening session: 11:30 AM

Lunch: 12:00 PM to 1:00PM

Meetings: 1:00 PM until



DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MISSISSIPPI

ALSO JOIN: ALA SOUTHERN DIVISION



FROM THE DEPT. SECRETARY



I guess it really is time for me to retire. I had to be reminded to write my article for the newsletter – again!

We, at Headquarters, are working several projects at one time: Girls State!, the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival and the Area Conferences. Most important, we are working MEMBERSHIP! Please, let's get off the bottom and grow!

We have been informed that Biloxi USO will no longer accept the clipped coupons. However, we also received information on where you can send them. Before you send your coupons, make sure to verify the address to be sure that particular commissary is still collecting the paper coupons. Since electronic coupons are now so numerous, many commissaries have done away with the paper coupons and will refuse them. The following are a few websites that have updated lists of commissaries accepting paper coupons. (If you don't have access to a computer, ask someone who does to check these websites for you.)

- <http://www.military-money-matters.com/expired-coupons.html>
- <http://grocerycouponsforfree.org/military.html>
- <http://www.grocerysavings.com/p/military-family.html>

Coupons go a long way for a military family. They are also a great way to show support, and are an easy project for our members. With a little diligence, you can be certain that your time and efforts are appreciated.

We are at present working with the VA here in Jackson to sponsor an ALA night at the Mississippi Braves game for the benefit of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. The VA has asked the Auxiliary to do this to assist with collecting donations for NVCAF 2016. Further information will be provided as is put together.

Hope to see you all at the Spring Conferences. Keep the faith!

For God and Country,

Nancy Sanders, Dept. Secretary/Treasurer

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT
FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR Angela Kilcrease**

My dearly beloved Dept. of Mississippi, for many years now, I have volunteered my time and efforts to put together our monthly newsletter, from the articles received by our officers and program chairmen. It is now time for me to take a break from this endeavor. The July issue will be my last one, but I hope there is someone out there who will/can step up and carry on this most valuable tool for our Department. Please let us know if you are willing to serve!

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Our heartfelt condolences go out to the Family of Martha Rodgers, PDP, who passed away since our last newsletter. We wish comfort for PDC Lynn and his family—we are all saddened to lose such a wonderful Auxiliary member and leader.



To those of our Legion family who have been sick and/or convalescing, we offer our thoughts and best wishes for a speedy recovery.