



On behalf of the Department
Officers and Program Chairmen,

We Wish You and Yours
A Very
MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Department of
Mississippi

Magnolia



AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY

Serving veterans, their families and their communities

Monthly
Newsletter

Dec. 2014

**CHRISTMAS
EDITION**

GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



*“Beep Beep,” On the Road
for our Veterans!*

TIS THE SEASON! Can you believe it is already here? We have had so many things going on around our state.

Our Auxiliary Elfs were all at work making sure our Veterans are not forgotten this Christmas Season.

We had programs going on in every community, VA homes

and VA hospitals in the state. We had packages mailed overseas to our Active Duty Military.

Reports should already be turned in to your Chairmen and District Presidents. I know you are glad to have that behind you. Do not forget, they will be reporting on all your good deeds at the Mid-Winter Conference and to National Chairmen.

Hope you are all making plans to attend the 2015 Mid-Winter Conference in January. We are making a few changes and hoping that you will like the changes. Make plans to come out and see what we are up to!

We are doing so many wonderful things all over this state, and it just keeps getting better and better as we are communicating with each other and getting more ideas.

Auxiliary Members, we are so proud of all the things you do for our Veterans in Mississippi. There is no way I could tell you about everything we do, but I can tell you that you are doing a GREAT job.

We will continue to help educate and communicate with all the Units throughout this state. Please let us know what you want in your Units and what we can do to help you.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2015
Mid-Winter Conference
January 23-25, 2015
Natchez



*Wishing each and every
one of you the best this
Christmas and
New Year Season.
May God Bless You.*

For God and Country,

Mary Barrett

1ST VICE PRESIDENT-PROGRAMS COORDINATOR



This is a beautiful time of year, but for the Auxiliary, it has been a busy time of the year. Dec. 1st reports were due. From Unit reports, the Department Chairmen use your information for their reports to National and to be given at the Mid-Winter Conference. So as you can see,

it takes all of us to work together—Unit, district, state and national levels. Thank you for meeting the deadline and sending in your reports.

I hope all of you are using our Plans of Actions and sharing the information with your members. We had a lot of people involved in our Plans of Action this year. We had a great time at Boot Camp working together. At our

Area Conferences this year each one of our Program Chairman gave an elevator speech which is an overview of How, What, When and Why each program is important.

We hope our Leadership workshops this Fall have been a good learning tool for our Units. I know I have enjoyed attending each one and meeting such a wonderful group of ladies.

At Christmas, remember our Veterans and help a family if you can. Thank you all for what you do. We have a great American Legion Auxiliary and I am so proud to work with each of you. We can Work and have Fun. Smile and be Happy.

*Merry Christmas to all and
be safe. Beep Beep!*

*Anita
McAllister*



2ND VICE PRESIDENT-VA&R CHAIRMAN



Well! We have arrived at the end of one year and beginning a New Year with hopeful and intentional new ideas. We acknowledge and compliment our past leadership for all they have done. We say "Thank you" for being there to lead us. Now, we must continue to build on those ideas for the betterment of our veterans. Thank You.

Now, may I share with you a little food for thought to help our veterans from past experience as a health care pro-

vider for our veterans! I know that many of our sons, brothers, husbands, fathers, and grandfathers never returned home from past wars with the same personality they left with. Therefore, we must be more patient with our loved ones, ask less questions, expect less physical contact and most of all allow them to open up at their own pace (and they will).

Now the New Year will soon be here by the time you receive this newsletter. I am looking forward to a happy and productive year end. After visiting several of the nursing homes during the past year, it filled my heart to see so much attention and love being shown to them. The passion and gratitude was evident for all they

have done for us. My heart was filled with joy and my eyes tearful with happiness for the service the ALA ladies bestowed upon our veterans. I am looking forward to visiting two veterans homes in January that I missed earlier. I am asking each VA representative to please call me and let me know what you are doing, where and when, especially the ones I missed.

I hope everyone sent in their reports, if not, call me.

Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

*Eva Ford
2nd Vice President*



FOR THE RECORD – DEPT. HISTORIAN



I know everyone is looking for Santa, but please remember the true reason for the season. Ask a veteran to share your family's holiday events. Give to your nursing homes toys, and gifts for the Christmas shops. The food drive went well and even more food was delivered to the Williams to take to Camp Shelby after the SAC meeting. JOB WELL DONE LADIES!!!!

Do you know the publication of the Department paper began, to be mailed, FREE, (What would you get free today!!) to every member of the Auxiliary in Mississippi, with the first issue being released in November 1928. The Department office/headquarters was moved to the War Memorial Building in Jackson in 1940.

Historian days to remember in January: January 1, of course, the most celebrated holiday around the world; also in 1776 George Washington unveiled the 1st national flag in American called the Grand Union flag; January 10, 1878 amendment granting women the right to vote, IT PASSED 42 YEARS LATER.

Famous birthdays include "The King" Elvis Presley, Richard Nixon, Paul Revere, Douglas MacArthur; Martin L. King, Jr.; FDR; and Benjamin Franklin.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!

For God and Country,

Jackie Baughman, Dept. Historian



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER – DEPT. CHAPLAIN



Galatians 5:13 "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."

As Veteran's Day has passed, we all have thankful hearts for our precious Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and those who would walk along side them in service. Our Preamble reads "To consecrate and sanctify our association by devotion to mutual helpfulness" we are called to be the assistant/helper. Remember who we are and what we as members are called to do. Help a Veteran this season.

Keep up with all your work and send in those reports, if you haven't done so already.

Have a MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Tina Hurst
thurst@wildblue.net



AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND



What a wonderful time of the year... Let us be joyful and thankful for all we have. November was a busy month for me, and I'm sure you as well. December won't be any different with unit meetings, Christmas parties, and celebrating our Lord and Saviors birth.

As of this writing I know of 4 units participating in AEF and about \$800 received. I certainly appreciate those that have sent in their money, and I check the mailbox daily for more. Ladies, \$800 is a long way from the \$8000 I'm hoping we donate this year. Please continue to ask for donations—ask the rest of our Legion family members also to donate.

The midyear reports were due 1 December, so if you have not sent in something please do so, even if you are reporting that your unit does not participate in this program. I've asked our Department Secretary to please attach a short form for each unit to complete and mail or email to me. This will help me in compiling my report for our Department and National.

Ladies this is a great organization and you would not be a part of it if you didn't care about our Veterans.

I wish you all a MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Email: angela.m.baughman.mil@mail.mil or chiefangie2013@gmail.com

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For GOD and Country,

Angie Baughman, Chairman



LEADERSHIP—BETTER KNOWN AS MEMBER EDUCATION



It's Christmas Time—my favorite time of the year! This time of year seems to always be our busiest time, so much to do, so many to serve! We've heard some great things this past month of service from our units and members. What a joy it is to see the Facebook posts of all the wonderful activities. Great Job!!

The New Year will bring us New opportunities for service, not to mention Mid-Winter Conference! No rest for the weary, I say! To that point, I want to let everyone know that your Leadership Team is planning a one-hour workshop at Mid-Winter Conference on Friday morning, 10 a.m., after the Dept. Executive Committee Meeting.

The beauty of this workshop is that we are inviting the Legionnaires to join us so we can educate THEM about our great organization. How about that?? Now, I want all you to encourage your Legionnaire to attend with you—that's your mission.

For the new year, your Leadership Team will continue to offer workshops in districts and other special programs. Remember, President Mary wants all of us to have the opportunity to BE EDUCATED about this great organization.

We'll also focus on what it takes to be a leader. Case in point, District Offices are very important to our Department. These officers are the "front line" to our success. At our Spring conferences, we'll be electing district officers, so we need to start thinking now about who would be the best leader/motivator in our districts. I'll have more about this topic coming up in the next couple of monthly newsletters for us to ponder.

Thanks again for all your dedicated service this past month.

From my house to yours, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Angela Kilcrease, Chairman

"If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously.

If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously.

And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

- Romans 12:8 (NLT)



M.E.M.B.E.R.S.H.I.P.



Wow, Mississippi! While I was cruising, we had some Membership Elves out there beating the bushes to help us reach our 2nd Membership Milestone of 60% by Veterans Day. Now, when I set sail, I didn't know if we were going to pull it off—in fact, I was so anxious on that Wednesday (when the National Report comes out), that I purchased internet time just to see what happened. Well, lo and behold, I nearly fell out of my chair to see that YOU DID IT! Believe me, it was the most wonderful surprise and tears immediately came to my eyes for what YOU DID! I can not thank you all enough who pushed and worked so hard to reach that goal for our beloved Department. But thank you, thank you, thank you!!

Now, on to our next milestone:

85% by Valentines Day. Our Mission: Put Your Heart Into It!!



At the 2015 Mid-Winter Conference, we're having a drawing. Mississippi received \$100 from National for reaching our 1st Milestone of 60%. It's only right to pass it along to one of our units. So, all Units that reach 85% goal by Mid-Winter Conference will be eligible for the drawing of \$100 for the unit treasury. Now, if your unit reaches 100% by Mid-Winter, you get another entry into the drawing! Don't miss your chance for a little cash for your Unit! Let's do this!!

We all will be saying once again, **BEEP, BEEP, OUTTA THE WAY, MISSISSIPPI COMIN' THRU!!**

I'm wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

For God and Country,

Angela Kilcrease, Chairman



WHAT DOES MY MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MEAN TO ME?

Being a member of this Organization has allowed me to further appreciate the sacrifices of our veterans and their families. I have had the opportunity to see firsthand the sadness and smiles on the faces of these heroes and have become to understand a little better their reasons for this. My love and admiration for our veterans has grown so much over the years. I am blessed to be an eligible member of the ALA.

I have had the opportunity to create some friendships with other Auxiliary members that I am sure will last a lifetime. We all have similar goals and continue to do all we can do to serve the veterans who have served our country.

I have also grown personally. Things that did not mean so much before have a whole new meaning to me now. I grew up saying the Pledge of Allegiance in school and basically all my life. Now, when I stand to say the pledge, I know what it means to all those who have fought to preserve our rights, as Americans, to have that opportunity. I see the pride in our veteran's faces and hearts. I now have that same pride.

This organization has changed my life forever. I now have a newfound sense of Patriotism and love for those who have served, those who are serving, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

As you renew your membership in this organization, I want you to answer the question: What does my membership in the American Legion Auxiliary mean to me?

For God and Country,

Diane Belue, Membership Vice Chairman



EDUCATION



What a busy four months! I know all of you have worked hard on Education Week. And, I'm sure all of you have gotten your reports in to the Department Chairmen. BEEP BEEP! I realize that everyone has been busy, busy this month, but in your spare time, start thinking about what you can do to get the information out to the schools in your area about our scholarship programs and Girl State.

I know our Units will continue to display our SPIRIT and devotion to EDUCATING the children of our veterans, our military children and Community children.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas as we celebrate Faith, Family, and Freedoms.

For God and Country,

June Laws, Chairman



NATIONAL SECURITY



What comes to mind when you hear "national security"? Most will say it relates to the safety of our country, which is true, but for ALA members, it is strengthening and supporting military service members and their families.

How do we do this? It can be by placing yellow ribbons around the community supporting our troops, assisting with a welcome home for those returning from deployment, clip coupons, donate blood---just a few suggestions. Just being there when needed is very important. For more information check your Plan of Action or the National

website: www.ALAforveterans.org.

To the units that sent in your mid-year report, thank you. For those of you that "forgot," please remember the yearly report is due May 1, 2015.

Wishing everyone a safe and Merry Christmas.

Rose Blanchard, Chairman



AMERICANISM



Our veterans were honored this month during the different activities in communities across the state. The Americanism essay contest should be introduced to the local schools. This year's essay is "What freedom means to my family?" A copy of the application cover letter will be included in this newsletter and should accompany each student's essay. All essays will be accepted until April 15th, 2015.

Dates to remember; Dec. 7th, National Pearl Harbor Day; Dec. 8th, War declared on Japan (1941); Dec. 10th, Human Rights Day, Dec. 11th, Germany and Italy declared war on US (1941); Dec. 13th, Saddam Hussein captured by US Army troops & Birthday of US National Guard (2011); Dec. 15th, Iraq War ended (2011) and Bill of Rights Day; Dec. 21st, Winter begins; Dec. 25th, Christmas Day; Dec 31, Official End of WWII (1946) and New Year's Eve.

Did you know the story of the Sullivan Brothers? In January, 1943 three men in Naval uniforms stepped out of the car and approached the Great Grandfather's door. Instinctively he knew one of his sons had been killed in action—he asked "which one?" The ranking officer answered "I'm sorry. All five." The five Sullivan Brothers went down when Cruiser Juneau sank.

Trivia Questions: What great patriotic icon was purchased for a mere \$300? Who was it ordered from?

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

For God and Country,

Wendy Walters, Chairman



DEPARTMENT SUPPORT FUND



I must first inform you that due to a special reception for the Southern Division National Vice President on Friday January 23 at Mid-Winter Conference and limited time, **the Jeans and Jewels Gala that was scheduled for that night, has been cancelled.** However, Melissa Seward has graciously offered to combine the Department Support Fund with the President's Special Project "Country Hoe Down" on Saturday night. Therefore, we will still be able to introduce the candidates from each District and announce the "Jewel" of the fundraising efforts. We will also have a "Jail -N-Bail" set up for fundraising. A Jail-N-Bail is simple. You can post a fee to have someone "arrested" and a warrant will be issued for their "arrest." They will then be taken to "jail" and must raise the same amount for their "bail." After this, they will be released. We do ask that a person only be put in jail once, so as to make it fun for everyone.

I hope that all units are getting ready to send in their donations, as the deadline is December 31. I want to thank those units that have already made donations and I am told that one District has already made and surpassed their \$1,000 goal. Kudos to them! Now, I am sure some of the other districts are not far behind, right? Please send all donations to Nancy, soon.

I have not received the names of the candidates from all districts yet. Below is a list of the candidates. If your district does not have a candidate listed, please let me know who they are. The district Presidents will be asked to step in as your candidate, if one is not confirmed before Mid-Winter.

District 1-Shawn Morton
District 2-
District 3-Shirley Turner
District 4-Diane Lawrence
District 5-

District 6-Eva Ford
District 7-
District 8-Peggy McCluskey
District 9-

I want to thank all units for their fundraising and donations to the Department Support Fund, big or small. Everything you do is appreciated 100%.

Merry Christmas to you all!

Diane Belue, Department Support Fund Chairman



An old song sang by Eddie Cantor—words we can all appreciate at this joyous time of year!

*What do I want for Christmas? Well it's simple and its plain.
It isn't tied with ribbons or wrapped in cellophane.*

*If Santa passes by my stocking, I promise not to mind a lot
The only thing I want for Christmas is just to keep the things that I've got
A pair of loving arms around me, a garden of forget-me-not
The only thing I want for Christmas, is just to keep the things that I've got.*

*A friend or two, a peaceful sky of blue
A place to hang my hat when work of day is through
If Santa passes by my chimney I'll still be happy like has not
The only thing I want for Christmas is just to keep the things that I've got.*

*Ya know, there's a lot of unhappiness in the world today
But we still have peace over here.
In this country we really have Christmas 365 days each year.*

The only thing I want for Christmas is just to keep the things that I've got.



DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MISSISSIPPI

ALSO JOIN: ALA SOUTHERN DIVISION



FROM THE DEPT. SECRETARY



Greetings to all! As the 2014 year comes to an end, we at the Department Headquarters would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the consideration, friendship and hard work you have given to the American Legion Auxiliary. You are the foundation that keeps us alive. Personally, as your Department Secretary, I could not find a more pleasant group to work for. I love you all.

December is a month of rush hours. We are rushing to put together your Mid-Winter Conference program and conference. We are rushing to get that membership to National to maintain our "top spot." We are rushing to get all the year-end business taken care of because "we" are taking "our" ANNUAL VACATION beginning December 15! As I have been here going on my 7th year, I have earned THREE WEEKS! This is the slowest time for the Department Headquarters and a perfect time for a vacation. HOWEVER, you know the ritual: I will have the telephone transferred to my personal number for emergencies and membership on Mondays and Tuesdays. On those dates I will also check the mail at the Post Office. It seems to work good that way. We all win.

This is the last month to send in your poppy orders so don't forget! Remember, I only order once a year. They are getting harder to find and have gone up a little. For those of you who have had your Fall poppy day, don't forget that you send the Department 25 percent of your net poppy income for the Veterans' projects sponsored by the Department.

As this is the season for giving, remember to give food to your local homeless shelter or soup kitchen. Those old coats and blankets sure would feel good to a homeless person. Many, many of those are veterans who suffer from PTSD and are just down on their luck.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a very Prosperous New Year. Remember, you are loved. See you at Mid-Winter!

Nancy Sanders, Dept. Secretary/Treasurer



IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Past Department President Martha Rodgers who is very ill. Please keep her and Lynn in your thoughts and prayers.

PDP Rose Blanchard's husband, Don, who just had open heart surgery in Mobile.

NEC Robert Gosa's wife who is in the hospital.

All of our Legion family members who are sick or healing.