

Department of  
Mississippi

Magnolia



AMERICAN LEGION  
AUXILIARY

Serving veterans, their families and their communities

Monthly  
Newsletter

Feb. 2014



## GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Mississippi knows how to get it done! Our Mid-Winter Conference was a big success; thank you Secretary Nancy and your helpers for making sure things were ready for us when we arrived.

Our National President Nancy Brown-Park was there for her official visit to our state; not only was it her first time to Mississippi, but her first trip to the South, and her first exposure to Mardi Gras. She

was shown our best Southern hospitality and I believe she had a fun time....other states will need to work hard, to show her as good a time as we did.

I said we would have some fun this year and from the many positive comments, mission accomplished, but there's more to come. Thank you to Special Projects Chairman June Laws and Department Support Fund Chairman Lou Wilkerson for outstanding events!

We had reports from all chairmen and all districts were represented, by either the president or vice-president. Our units have

accomplished so much thus far, and I can't wait to see what the second half of our year brings.

Membership is steady coming in; we met our first two goals, and now we're headed to the top. We've done it before, and I have faith that we will do it again.

One thing we need to keep in mind; if we don't sign-up new members and renew the ones we already have, who will be here to carry on all our good works?

Give the ladies you know and those you don't, the opportunity to belong to this great organization.

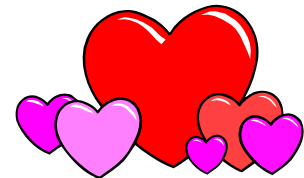
## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2014 STATE  
CONVENTION

JULY 18-20,  
BATTLEFIELD INN  
VICKSBURG

There were many PDPs not in Natchez, due to illness and as you pray for our veterans and service members, please had an extra prayer for these ladies.

*Rose Blanchard*  
Department President



## 1ST VICE PRESIDENT-PROGRAMS COORDINATOR



Hello Ladies!

I would like to say "Thank You" to every Unit that sent in your reports for Mid-

Winter. The work you have done is amazing and I know it is appreciated by our Veterans. I would also like to thank all the Department Chairmen for their good work and the excellent reports that was

given at our Conference.

**TO ALL UNITS:** Please make plans now to sent in your Year-end reports. They are due May 1, 2014. Ladies, it is your information that keeps our Auxiliary and Legion strong. Our reporting to Congress helps our Veterans and Active Service Personnel. I know all of you are hearing on the news about the cuts that are being made to our Veterans and Active

Military.

Ladies, we can make a difference, but we have to turn in reports of our volunteer hours, service and monies and how many Veterans we serve.

If you need help in any way, please call me, or your District President or our Department Secretary. It is critical that we help and we can by turning in our reports.

If you need information or help in any way, please let us know.

Praying that of you stay warm and healthy.

For God and Country,

*Mary Barrett, 1st V. P.*

## 2ND VICE PRESIDENT-VA&R CHAIRMAN



Mid-Winter Conference: We hope it was educational and fun. Our units have worked hard this past 6 months—they did not MONKEY AROUND. Each of our Units has done a wonderful job helping our Veterans and their families. Thanks to the VA Reps and all of their helpers—we can't do this alone—its takes all of us working together. We have dedicated members and without them we would not have such a wonderful organization. We do this with love in our hearts and a BIG smile on our face. We got some wonderful reports and need more reports for year-end, Not only does volunteering help our Veterans, but we need these reports to be sent to National so we can voice our opinion in Washington. Please work on year – end reports; I would like to get 100%

reporting. When I read your reports, it gives us all new ideas and some of our units are working just as hard but not reporting—Get the recognition that you deserve! I received a wonderful letter from one of our members' about our **first Mississippi Auxiliary Member** who is in the nursing home in Oxford MS. Our National President has the letter and the book that Oxford, MS put out about the ladies in the Military.

Just a reminder: Department Reps and Deputies, please e-mail or call me with any upcoming events. 228-875-8384: cell 228-365-6478: e-mail address [camatina@bellsouth.net](mailto:camatina@bellsouth.net).

Thank You all for working with me these past 6 months, and thank you for letting me be your VA& R Chairman.

For God and Country,

*Anita McAllister 2nd Vice*

### CALLING FOR DEPT. PRESIDENT ROSE'S SCRAPBOOK ITEMS

Remember to send items from your Unit to Dept. President Rose's Scrapbook Chairman, Jackie Sibley, as it happens.

News articles, programs, pictures, etc.

Mail to:

**Jackie Sibley**  
14654 Vidalia Road  
Pass Christian, MS 39571

## FOR THE RECORD – DEPT. HISTORIAN



Well!! We survived 2013. We strived hard to accomplish the goals we hoped to accomplish in all of our stressful ventures. We may or may not have reached the goals we had set for ourselves; however, we are still working and no plans are in motion to stop now.

Our Southern Division National Vice-President would be very disappointed, and we are not going to allow that to happen, are we? So far, we have kept a smile on her face so let us get busy and make it better for 2014!! Ok!

Special thanks for those of you who sent your report in. For those of you who have not please, write down what you did, who, how many, where, when, why and cost. When you answer those questions, you will have your report. Every unit may plan different activities but all of us do something. Don't count yourself out. If it is only one thing, write it down and send it to me. Example, maybe you work on building a stronger membership or establishing community relationship to acquaint the community with the needs and purpose of the American Legion Auxiliary. Let us know what you have been doing. Sharing ideas will help our Auxiliary grow stronger and at the same time we build a positive history for another

ninety years. Will each historian please write a short unit history and submit it as soon as possible to [evil39183@yahoo.com](mailto:evil39183@yahoo.com) or P.O. Box 1817 Vicksburg, MS 39183. Remember ladies, I can't record histories If I don't have them and I can't send your records to National if I don't have them.

In order to build a stable auxiliary to leave behind we must start with bonding relationships in and out of state. When we cross lines, we are assisting in making help available to our veterans everywhere. That thought works both ways, huh! The chain affect can make a difference for our veterans.

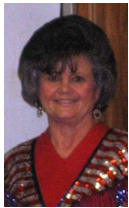
Our ALA membership has fallen in all 50 states; therefore, we must not let ALA be pass history. Can we put the chain affect in action? We all know people in more than one state or town. Let us try and see how much we can get done by May 01, 2014. We've gone too far now. We must start reaching out to family and friends to join us in this struggle to keep ALA's alive. There will be no current history if we don't start encouraging our young veterans and families to join us. Remember we can't have ALA without our Veterans, and they need us.

For God and Country,

*Eva Ford, Dept. Historian*

## NEWS FROM DEPT. CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

### AMERICANISM



Mid-Winter was informative and a challenge because of the cold, blustery wind, but it was a beautiful sunny weekend.

Lots of money was raised for the different projects. Shannon McGiveney, my daughter and dual member, was "First Maid" in the Mardi Gras Ball and dressed patriotic in red, white, and blue. As an Auxiliary member and Americanism Chairman, "I'm Proud to be an American."

Units should be working with local school officials for the Americanism Essay Contest, with the essay titled, "How Can I Show my Pride in Being an American?" If units need the application cover sheet, please call me at 662-674-5708. Presently, my email is not working.

Dates to remember: National Freedom Day, Feb. 1; Boy Scouts of American, Feb. 8; Lincoln's Birthday, Feb. 12; George Washington's Birthday, Feb. 22, observed Feb. 17.

This month's Trivia Questions: 1. When was the first "Miss America" contest held and who was the first and second winner? 2. What was the shortest address spoken by a government official, when and by whom?

*Wendy Walters, Chairman*

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Hi Ladies,



I've just got home from Mid-Winter Conference in Natchez. It was a fun-filled and educational experience. I hope you not only enjoyed it but also took a renewed sense of purpose in your endeavors to become the best we can be in Life and the American Legion Auxiliary.

A lot of members were absence due to various reasons, and I want you to know you were missed. It takes all of us pulling together to achieve our goals. From the newest member to the oldest, each one of us has a part to play in this great organization.

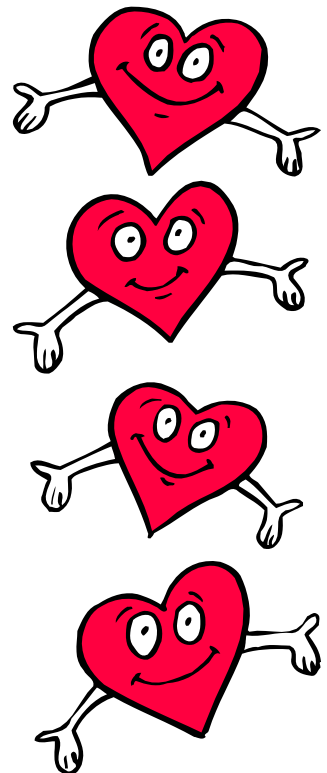
Several ladies made the comment, they had no poems or materials to put in President Rose's Prayer Book, but I assure you, you do. A simple "Thank you Rose" or "A job well done", or just a simple card with your name, unit number and Unit name on it would mean a great deal to me and I know Rose would enjoy it to. Remember it's the simple things in life that usually mean so much to you. My daughter is Dept. Commander this year, and EVERYTHING she gets is going into a personal scrapbook for her, and she treasures them greatly.

I had a total of 19 units reporting out of 83, I appreciate each one of them, and hope to see MORE at the end of year, also please send me a list of your deceased members names and unit number by May 1<sup>st</sup>. I DO NOT want to miss anyone.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve as your chaplain.

For God and Country,

*Jackie Baughman, Dept. Chaplain*



## NEWS FROM DEPT. CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

### PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT

Mid Winter Conference 2014

I believe everyone that attended Mid-Winter Conference had a fun time. I would like to thank all of you for singing and dancing at Karaoke. We raised \$550, and everyone had a great time.

I have said all year working together we can make a difference. Working with Lou on the Carnival Ball, our part came to \$1835. We now have a profit of \$5872.

National President Nancy Brown Park asked us to bring National's check to Washington DC for the Parade of Checks.

Ladies, I use to say working together we can make a difference; now I'm saying we have made a difference. I have full confidence going forward to State Convention that we will continue this fantastic work.

We don't monkey around; together we make a difference.

For God and Country,

*June Laws Chairman*

### NATIONAL SECURITY



Hello again ladies. It was so good to have so many at Mid-Winter Conference. It really was an honor to have as our special guest, National President Nancy Brown Park. Although I did not receive as many National Security reports as I should have, I am so pleased that there are units working hard and reporting what they have been doing. For all the units who did not send in reports for Mid-Winter, continue to work and be ready to send in the year-end report. I know that ALL the units are doing something to report, and it is a shame that we only have a few units that do report.

Valentine's Day is coming up, so have something at the regular meeting for all those ladies who don't have a mate. Make them feel special because they don't have anyone to do that for them anymore. The month of April is Children and Youth Month. Involve the Juniors and do something for the children of deployed military. There are so many possibilities that are out there that we can do for National Security. If you have a military base, VA hospital or nursing home nearby, take some treats to the different offices for the workers. They need to be thanked as well as the service members and veterans. Be sure to keep a record of your hours and how much was spent so you can report it. Be in communication with your Congressmen/women and let them know what we are doing to help the military and their families and how much we appreciate what they do to help keep the benefits for the military and their families. With all the cuts in the benefits for the veterans it is so important that we let Washington D.C. know that we do not want the veterans, who sacrificed so much for us, to be tossed aside and forgotten. Thank you again for all your hard work so far this year. Don't stop.....we have so much that needs to be done.

For God and Country,

*Sarah Edwards, Chairman*

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

We had some good reports for our Mid-Winter Conference, but I would have loved to see more come in. Let's all get out in our communities and make our great Auxiliary shine. Don't forget I will need every unit to get their reports in to me by 1 May 2014. So let's all get out there and do something. I would like to see something on every report please. Thank you so much for all you do, and let's keep up the good work.

For God and Country,

*Melissa Seward, Chairman*

**M.E.M.B.E.R.S.H.I.P.****2ND MILESTONE OF 70% BY VALENTINES DAY—CHECK, DONE!**

This Department Membership Chairman cannot thank all of you enough for meeting the challenge of reaching our 2nd Membership Milestone of 70% by Mid-Winter Conference...and you did it ahead of schedule! Whoo Hoo Mercy—that is the way we like it!! Uh, Huh, Uh, Huh!

I'm so sorry I had to miss Mid-Winter Conference and the National President's visit, but duty called as SDNVP and was visiting the Dept. of Tennessee. However, I knew you all would make it a great conference for Presidents Rose and Nancy Brown-Park, and I thank Dept. Secretary Nancy for giving my report. Many congrats to Kosciusko 44 for winning the \$200 Membership Incentive prize and again, thank you, Dept. Commander Angie, for funding this incentive. That's family!

I want to point out that on the Feb. 6 National Membership Report, our great department was only six (6) members behind North Carolina for the top spot in the Southern Division. Isn't that wonderful!?? And we're back in the top 10! I'm very, very happy about that and owe you all a big round of congrats for your hard work in the districts and units. Let's keep this train moving forward to the top and keep telling yourselves—YES WE CAN!

For God and Country,

*Angela Kilcrease, Chairman*

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF MISSISSIPPI'S**

### **100 PERCENT (PLUS!) UNITS!**

Corinth 207 (115.39%)    Fulton 51 (120.46%)    Baldwin 130 (105.89%)    New Albany 72 (100%)  
 Tishomingo 144 (100%)    Corinth 207 (107.70%)    Nesbit 1990 (118.19%)    Grenada 35 (180%)  
 Kosciusko 44 (104.92%)    Ackerman 82 (104.77%)    Vicksburg 3 (100%)    Yazoo City (109.09%)  
 Vicksburg 213 (102.25%)    Jackson 214 (127.28%)    Tylertown 56 (102.47%)    Natchez 228 (109.68%)  
 Laurel 11 (100%)    Bay Springs 71 (133.34%)    Mendenhall 74 (154.55%)    Laurel 210 (100%)  
 Ocean Springs (100%)    Lucedale 53 (133.34%)    Hattiesburg 225 (103.45%)

*As of 2/6/2014 report*

### **70% Plus UNITS!**

Aberdeen 26    Tupelo 49    Pontotoc 16    Ripley 81    Calhoun City 50    Hickory Flat 128  
 Horn Lake 134    Cleveland 165    Indianola 2    Greenwood 29    Greenwood 200    Mound Bayou 220  
 West Point 38    Starkville 13    Columbus 69    West Point 212    Winona 52    Ackerman 82  
 Forest 9    Louisville 62    Newton 89    Carthage 168    Carthage 219    Canton 67    Brandon 68  
 Jackson 91    Jackson 112    Yazoo City 201    Liberty 76    Wesson 79    Tylertown 120    Hattiesburg 24  
 Standard 58    Waveland 77    Gulfport 119    Bay St. Louis 139    Petal 146    Moss Point 243  
 Lakeshore 152    Gautier/Vancleave 1992    D'Iberville 2002

### **DISTRICT WHO HAVE REACHED 70% PLUS:**

**District 8: First Goal District 105.13!**

**District 4: 88.57%    District 7: 87.76%    District 1: 87.25%    District 2: 79.76%**

**District 9: 78.52%    District 6: 77.79%**

*C'mon Districts 3 and 5—you getting so close!*



## DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

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**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

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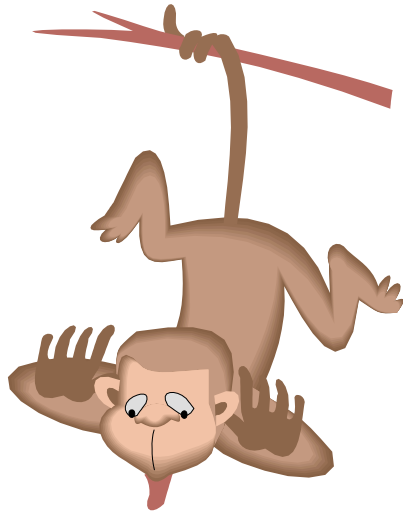
JOIN OUR GROUP ON FACEBOOK



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MISSISSIPPI

ALSO JOIN: ALA SOUTHERN DIVISION

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**Don't Monkey  
Around!**

## FROM THE DEPT. SECRETARY



### Greetings from the Department!

Greetings from the icy cold hill in downtown Jackson, where the wind comes whistling around the building and sweeps you off your feet! Hope all who attended Midwinter enjoyed the conference. As for this office, we are playing "catch-up". It's tax time for the Department and all reports, payments, etc. was the first week's obligation. Membership followed immediately.

The ice and snow pretty well blocked all inroads to downtown from Brandon on the 28<sup>th</sup>, so I brought the Midwinter minutes home and worked on them all day. There is not a lot going on this time of the year, and it's a good time to get caught up with the little but necessary chores in the Department office.

As you all know by now, State Convention will be in Vicksburg at the Battlefield Inn July 18-20, 2014. Please make your reservations a.s.a.p. Our own Angela Kilcrease, the Southern Division National Vice President, will make her official visit to Mississippi during that time, and we all want to show her our appreciation by having a "house full" at the Convention, don't we???

We have Girls State packets prepared and ready to hand out to our delegates, and the flyers are available. Just let us know where to send them. Our Girls State Director is Brooke Cullum and her email address is [gsdir2014@gmail.com](mailto:gsdir2014@gmail.com). We are very excited to have Brooke aboard. She is a bottomless pit of information. Let her hear from you about the great things that are planned for Girls State.

If we can assist you in any way, please give us a call at the Department at 601-353-3681 or email at [alamshq@att.net](mailto:alamshq@att.net).

For God and Country I remain,

*Nancy Sanders, Dept. Secretary/Treasurer*