

Department of
Mississippi

Magnolia



AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY

Serving veterans, their families and their communities

Monthly
Newsletter

Feb. 2015



GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



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

I have attempted two times before to write this article. I have tried to make sure I thanked everyone for all they have done, and two pages later, I knew, the editor would not let me do that. There are so many people that I would like to thank, I can just say *Thanks to everyone that made the 2015 Mid-Winter Conference a success.*

Please know that we appreciate each and every one of you. There was so many that helped, we do not have enough space to list each one and I sure do not want to leave anyone out. Thanks to all of you!

The Department and the District Officers, along with our Leadership Team, are ready to focus on individual Units. We are ready to come to your Unit and help with any and all issues that you answered.

We are willing to come to as many Units as time allows us. If you want additional information, please let us know and we will schedule a time to come. We need to hear

from you to know what you need.

The American Legion Family Workshop was a big hit at our Conference. We had the whole Family present and shared information about the aims and mission of each group, The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, the Sons of the Legion and the American Legion Riders.

It was really an eye-opener for all of us. We did not realize all the programs that are done by the other members of our family.

We are excited about all that we can accomplish together while we create a Culture of Goodwill among all of us.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Stay tuned, Spring
Conference Dates to come...

Auxiliary members, we hope you are all working to reach that 100% in your membership. So many of the Units are really close to their goal. Let's work hard and get it done so we can give even more focus on our programs.

For God and Country,

Mary Barrett
Department
President



1ST VICE PRESIDENT-PROGRAMS COORDINATOR



LADIES, WHAT A WONDERFUL TIME WE HAD AT MID-WINTER CONFERENCE. We want to thank all of you who attended. I want to thank all committee chairmen for their reports and all of the units who sent reports. Keep up with all the good work that you do and please continue to do your reports, so we will have some great reports at year end. Please send your reports to the chairman by the due dates so they will have time to prepare their reports. We want our reports to look good so national can see what Mississippi has accomplished.

It is that time again—Area Conferences. Please make sure to send a representative from each unit so they can be represented at their respective conference. District Presidents, please contact your units and remind them of the dates. Each area conference is important! That is when District Officers are elected. Please give this a lot of thought because they are very important within our organization and your units. They are there to help you.

I am asking for volunteers who would like to work on our committees, please e-mail or call ME.

When you see a VETERAN say THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE. If not for our Veterans we would not have FREEDOM. Our Auxiliary mission is SERVICE NOT SELF.

Anita McAllister 

2ND VICE PRESIDENT-VA&R CHAIRMAN



Mid-Winter Conference must have been in Santa's bag because the season came and left as fast as he did. Now, we are looking forward to Mardi Gras and Valentine's Day. What a blessing to witness the change of seasons. With Valentines approaching, I'm asking each unit to please do something special for our veterans. Remind them that we care and will never forget all they have done for us.

On the road again, Beep! Beep! Now that Mid-Winter Conference has passed, please start working on the

membership which will increase our funds and resources for our veterans and their families.

I'm asking all VA&R committee members to please inform me of dates, times and places of your activities as soon as possible. Keep in mind we have too many veterans unemployed (male and female). What do you think about some spring outdoor activities for our veterans? Help them if you can.

Special thanks to all of you who mailed in your reports. I am grateful and proud of all you have done and continue to do. Keep up the good work. For those of you I have not had the opportunity to visit, I am looking forward to seeing you within

the next six weeks. Keep in mind "together we stand- divided we fall."

I'm asking all of the units to please start writing down what you are doing and have done so you can submit your reports as soon as possible. I know each unit has done something for our veterans and their families in your community. Anything you do for our veterans is important, thoughtful, grateful, and appreciated.

Please document your activities for each veteran or group of veterans. Remember this information is needed to send to the national office.

Eva Ford
evil39183@yahoo.com



FOR THE RECORD – DEPT. HISTORIAN



Hi Ladies,

Recently our unit was asked to fix a display board about the Auxiliary. During my research I found the following statement and want to share it with you.

Core Values:

- Commitment to the 4 founding principles, Justice, Freedom, Democracy, and Loyalty.
- Service to God, our country, its veterans and their families
- Tradition of patriotism and citizenship

- Personal integrity and family values
- Respect for the uniqueness of individual members
- Adherence to the adopted policies and rules

Remember your veteran and others each day, for without THEM what kind of world would we be living in?

Days to remember in March: Daylight savings time begins, St. Patrick's Day, spring begins, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter.

For God and Country,

Jackie Baughman, Dept. Historian
jbauxiliary@ymail.com



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER – DEPT. CHAPLAIN



The 2015 Mid-Winter Convention was amazing! What a better way to spend a weekend than with our sisters united in a common purpose? Singing patriotic songs, playing "Name that Tune," learning new ways to help our veterans and fellowship were just some of the things we enjoyed.

Now, down to business. The time to start sending in your inspirational poems, prayers and any other items you wish to have be a part of the President's Prayer Book. Any member may send anything you wish to have included. Just mail to me at 19 CR 668, Corinth, MS 38834.

For God and Country,

Tina Hurst
thurst@wildblue.net



AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND



February, the month of LOVE. Ladies, I know you love this organization; otherwise you wouldn't be a member. I also know all the hard work you do for it and our beloved veterans. I wanted to thank all the Units and individuals that have donated to the AEF program to date. We have about \$2,000 so far donated, and I certainly hope we have that much and more to forward.

Remember to donate.....Have a great month and talk with you again in March.

Email: angela.m.baughman.mil@mail.mil or chiefangie2013@gmail.com Mailing address: 956 CR 17, Bay Springs, MS 39422

For GOD and Country,

Angie Baughman, Chairman



LEADERSHIP



What a wonderful Mid-Winter Conference we just had! Oh wow! We heard great reports from our Chairmen, sang, laughed, danced and celebrated being a member of the greatest service organization in the world! If you missed it, well, you missed something special.

Your Leadership Team, Lou Wilkerson and I, want to thank all who attended our first ever Legion Family workshop. We had a great attendance, with a mixture of all representatives of our Legion family. After the workshop, a Legionnaire came up to me and showed me a note of something he said he firmly believes. In essence, it said that a Post without a Unit is only half a family. How true is that statement!

Our next focus in Leadership Training is Unit Assistance. Many units are struggling, either to revitalize or to simply learn how to be a better, more productive unit. As Madam President Mary has stated in her column, we are prepared to come assist you—if you let us know what you need! Do not hesitate to call or email me. We are here to help you!

Again, thank you so much from your Leadership Team for your participation and efforts in learning!

For God and Country,

Angela Kilcrease, Leadership Chairman



PUBLIC RELATIONS



BEEP! BEEP! I received numerous of outstanding reports for Mid-Winter Conference from the Units. With reports received, I was able to put an adequate report together. Communication was utilized in various ways, such as flyers, community calendars, local newspaper, TV, emails, Facebook, and billboards. It is good to know that the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary are being advertised and the community know that we are dedicated to our Veterans. They are our HEROS. The American Legion has good news to share through Public Relations.

Ladies, keep up the good work in sharing and promoting the news about the American Legion Auxiliary. Again, thanks to all of the! I am encouraging each Unit to please send your local newspaper articles, flyers, brochures, running adds, and community calendars for the Department Public Relations booklet.

Hope to see everyone at Mid-Winter Conference!

For God and Country,

Charlotte Williams, Public Relations Chairman



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



Whoo Hoo! What a great turn-in at Mid-Winter Conference—thank you for bringing us your renewals! Now your job is NOT done. We've got more goals to meet in order to reach our final destination, that being 100% plus!

However, let me explain something—National has set our milestones based on renewals and rejoins, not numeric assigned goals. For Mississippi, our renewal/rejoin goal is 3,947 while our Numeric goal is 4,206. In order to meet, for example, our 85% milestone by Valentines Day, we need to have 85% of the renew/rejoin goal of 3,947. Currently, we're at 77.86% of that goal—having turned in 3,073 renewals/rejoins.

Yes, this new method, or way of thinking, is a challenge for us seasoned membership folks as we are used to meeting goals based on our overall numeric goal. But, together, we'll adjust and do what we have to do.

Congrats to my home unit, Walthall County Unit 56, for winning the \$100 drawing at Mid-Winter. That is the first time we've ever won a drawing! Of course, that check will be resent to the Department as part of our AEF contribution.

Many thanks to Dianell Miller and Mary Lyles for being our happy M & M's at Mid-Winter—weren't they adorable!!! M & M—National means it to be Million Members, but to me, it also means Membership Matters! Let's keep pushing and scraping and pulling our members out from under those rocks. Let's get all our valuable members renewed! And, let's keep adding those new members as they are our future!

If we continue our good progress, we all will be saying, **BEEP, BEEP, OUTTA THE WAY, MISSISSIPPI COMIN' THRU!!**



For God and Country,

Angela Kilcrease, Chairman

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY (STEEL MAGNOLIAS)



Attached to this newsletter is a copy of the Steel Magnolia's PDP Nursing Scholarship. I would like to give a short explanation of how this will work. The application must be complete with all attachments, and it **MUST** returned to the Department Office and **MUST** be postmarked on or before June 1, 2015.

The scholarship is for \$1,000.00 and is open to seniors who will graduate this year (2015) and also for adults who are returning to school to get a degree in nursing. Number 1 is to be filled out by all applicants, number 2-A is for graduating seniors and number 2-B is for adults. Number 3 is to be filled out by everyone.

If you have any other questions please don't hesitate to call and ask. There's no such thing as a dumb question. The only dumb question is the one you never ask.

Good luck and put the word out about our new \$1,000.00 scholarship.



For God and Country, Service not self,

Low Wilkerson, President, Steel Magnolias

EDUCATION



I had 7 units to turn in mid-year reports. Two of the reports were outstanding: Unit 144 Tishomingo and 1992 Gautier-Vancleave. Marty Peters, Southern Division Education Chairman, was very impressed with Gautier-Vancleave's pictures. She ask me to plan ahead and get the photos from the units in jpeg electronic format. At year end, I would like to send in as many reports as possible to National. **Now is the time to start working on our Scholarship programs. Please get this information to the schools. Applications for Scholarships are available on the department web site at www.missala.com.**

You all have done a wonderful job the first half of the year. Let's not stop now, let's keep of the good work!

For God and Country,
June Laws, Chairman

**All Scholarship Applications may be found at
www.missala.com on the front page...just click on the link!**

DEPARTMENT SUPPORT FUND



First, I want to thank Melissa Seward for letting us be a part of the Country Hoedown. I hope everyone had fun with the Jail-N-Bail. We certainly did, and I want to thank everyone that helped.

The Jeans & Jewels Gala is on for State Convention in July. Remember, the attire can be gowns with blue jean jackets or a bedazzled jean look. I want to remind all districts that they can still raise funds and make their donations to the Department Support fund until June 15. The wining district will be announced at Convention. Don't forget to send pics of your fundraising efforts to your District President for the District booths. Each district is asked to provide a door prize for their booths, also.

To all units that have made donations so far, I say thank you. You are showing that the units in each district can work together and that is what this is all about.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or e-mail me at 662-231-4497/edbelue19@hotmail.com.

For God and Country,

Diane Belue, Chairman



PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT



First and foremost, I want to thank everyone for their help and support at Mid-Winter Conference. The "Hoe Down" was a huge success, and we all had a good time. Mrs. Shirley Turner was the winner of our "Happy Hour Cooler" which was also a success.

Please, let's not stop now. We have our laptop tickets still on sale, and that is going good. All the units that have not done so yet, please mail your ticket money in and if you need any more please let me know.

Let's keep it going and make some money for the Special Project, and we will have fun doing it. Thanks again to all for your support.

For God and Country,

Melissa Seward Chairman



OXFORD VA CHRISTMAS CHEER 2014

What once was the most uncomfortable spot in the Oxford VA is now the warmest thanks to the generosity of American Legion Auxiliary members throughout the state of Mississippi. Thank you one and all for your Christmas cheer contributions that made it possible to purchase an electric fireplace for this facility. Special thanks are also extended to Diane Belue with members of Unit 26 Aberdeen and Ruth Benson with members of Unit 144 Tishomingo who stepped in at the last minute and provided additional funds to make this "wish list" item possible. Quoted in part, is a Thank You note to ALA members from facility Administrator, Amanda May, "The Mississippi State Veterans Home – Oxford greatly appreciates your most generous donation of one Real Flame Silverton Electric Fireplace...which has brought joy and warmth to the Veterans in our Home this holiday season...Your kindness is a special gift we do not take for granted and our services here have been enhanced by your thoughtfulness. Thank you for your support of those that served our country." The facility has also added a new member to their staff, Clifford, a 6 year old Golden Retriever. Here is a photo of our gift with Department VA&R members (left to right) Eva Harrison (Oxford VA Deputy) and Mary Jo Abraham (Oxford VA Administrator).





DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

War Memorial Building
P. O. Box 1382
Jackson, MS 39212

Phone: 601.353.3681
E-mail: ALAMSHQ@att.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.MISSALA.COM

JOIN OUR GROUP ON FACEBOOK



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MISSISSIPPI

ALSO JOIN: ALA SOUTHERN DIVISION



FROM THE DEPT. SECRETARY



Greetings from your Secretary/Treasurer. Just returned from Indianapolis where I attended a secretary's workshop to learn more about my duties and what is to come regarding our strategic planning with the American Legion Auxiliary and Girls State. Since National paid for the trip and accommodations, it was a flying trip, crammed with two days of intense work and interviews.

The poppies have been ordered. We hope everyone got their order in. They should be in the Department by Spring Conferences for me to deliver. There are still a few of you who have not paid your annual assessments. Please check your records or call the Department to see if you owe this.

As we are preparing for our Spring Conferences, please remember the importance of our conferences and the very important election of our District Presidents. As our positions are challenging with the extra responsibilities we inherit each year from our National Headquarters, the leadership commitment is important to the growth of our Auxiliary.

If your unit needs additional pamphlets or information that can be supplied by the Department, please let us know so we can make a bulk order.

It has been confirmed that our National President will be visiting Jackson, Mississippi, on May 12-13. Unit 112 will be hosting an event on one of those days. You will be informed as soon as we receive the President's flight agenda. Please make plans to travel to Jackson to welcome and visit with the National President.

In closing, my favorite job is inputting membership. Please send me one or five or ten!!!

Lovin' you all and my country,

Nancy Sanders, Dept. Secretary/Treasurer



AMERICANISM



February is Americanism month. Americanism is citizenship, showing respect for our country and youth, this is accomplished by observing Americanism in all aspects and endeavors. Units can support youth in schools by participating in the Americanism Essay Contest, "What Does Freedom Mean to My Family." Cover sheet applications are available by phone, 662-674-5708 or email, flowersandpups@aol.com. The cover sheet should be filled out in its entirety. Send essays no later than April 15th to 3609 Attala Rd #2237, Ethel, MS 39067.

Observe Americanism by wearing the colors, red, white, and blue, any ALA logo shirts at community functions, explaining programs in schools, and getting involved by volunteering.

Dates to remember: Feb. 1st, National Freedom Day; Feb. 2nd, Groundhog Day; Feb. 8th, Boy Scouts of America founded (1910); Feb. 12th, Lincoln's Birthday; Feb. 14th, Valentine's Day; and Feb. 22nd, Washington's Birthday observed on Feb. 16th.

Wendy Walters, Chairman

