

Department of
Mississippi

Magnolia



AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY

Serving veterans, their families and their communities

Monthly
Newsletter

Feb. 2016



GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Thanks to everyone that made the 2016 Mid-Winter Conference a success. We appreciate each and every one of you. There is not enough space to list each one. THANKS TO ALL OF YOU! We had Madeline Vuncannon to sing and lead us in sing-alongs, and it was a great time for all.

Please continue to keep up with all that you do and report all that you have accomplished

for your year-end reports. The reports that were turned in for Mid-Winter were great, and it is just amazing how much our units have accomplished. My goal is to visit as many units as I can in the next few months. Our members are so important. We will see you again shortly if your Post/Unit is being visited by The American Legion National Commander during his visit to Mississippi this month.

Department Support Fund and President Special Project: Ladies, thank you for your hard work and dedication to our organization. Our Butterfly Parade was a big success. We thank the American Legion for letting

us parade in their meeting and donating to our pretty butterflies. Game night was so much fun, and the food was delicious!

And, we thank our special National guest, NSDVP Flora Jean Craig, for her inspirational visit. She does us good!

We are excited about all that we can accomplish by working together to create a Culture of Goodwill among us and always have a smile on our face. We hope you are still working for a 100% membership—so many of you are so close to your goal. Let's continue to work hard and get it done so we can focus on our programs.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Spring Central Area
Conference, April 9,
Columbus Post 69

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

Spring Northern Area
Conference-TBA

National Commander's Visit
Feb. 14-18, 2016

Keep us all in your prayers as we travel to Washington D.C. for this year's Legislative Conference.

For God and Country,

Anita McAllister
Department President

1ST VICE PRESIDENT-PROGRAMS COORDINATOR



Mid Winter has come and gone. Now we are back to reality. The Mid-Winter session was wonderful. Special thanks to those who had special reports, and we are looking forward to the reports due May 1st. We cannot express enough how important the

reports are and the urgency of our membership reports. Our reports for memberships were on the down side before mid-winter. However, we are looking forward to a high rise for spring.

Looking back, we can see that Congress has so quickly forgotten the service our veterans provided and love they have for our country. But less us not forget, and

always remember our veterans are first and foremost on our agenda always.

Ladies, as we enter another phase of our journey, let us remember that we will have elections in July, and we will also have changing of the guard in some areas. Think about what contributions you would like to make by serving on a committee or chairing a committee.

We all can do something and everyone has ideas and commitments you haven't used yet. Get ready and let's join together to put a smile on our veterans face.

God bless each of you and God bless America.

Eva Ford, 1st Vice



2ND VICE PRESIDENT-VA&R CHAIRMAN



Love is in the air... yes, it's our love for our Veterans. Has your unit visited a Veteran? Even if there is no State Veterans home or hospital close by, visit your local nursing home. I'm sure there are Veterans there. Valentine's Day is this week, so go share some love with our Veterans.

I wanted to share what one of our

Legion members, and I'm proud to say new Auxiliary member, started at the Military Base she works at (this has been going on for some time—2009ish). Dancing with the Greatest Generation – Military members from the Base dress in their dress blues (yeah, Air Force for all you other military folks, LOL) and go to a local nursing home/assisted living home and spend the day dancing and having refreshments with the residents. Just a thought for something to do when you and your Unit/Post members visit the nursing home this month.

The year-end report is due to me by 1 May 2016. Please send those reports in so I can share what you do with National. Don't be bashful, you deserve the praises for what you do for our Veterans.

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Angie Baughman
2nd Vice President



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER – DEPT. CHAPLAIN



Greetings! We had a great time at Mid-Winter Conference. It was fun and full of informative information. Many members were not present for numerous reasons. You were tremendously missed, and you will continue to be in my prayers! It takes all of us to achieve our goals from the oldest to our newest members. In order, 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."

I received several outstanding reports from the Units. Each report was greatly appreciated. However, I am looking forward to receiving more reports for President Anita McAllister'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 wonderful to receive a report from all of the Units. In addition, please send a list of your deceased members by May 1, 2016. I do not want to miss anyone.

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



Happy Valentine's Day, Ladies! The Butterfly Parade at Mid-Winter Conference was very colorful and refreshing.

I am busy working on the History for our Department and need your help. I would like to ask every member who attends the upcoming area conferences to bring with them a written paragraph about your activities since May of 2015. This is not only for Unit activities but individual activities as well. Different members remember different activities, and this is a way for me to include everything in my report to National. Also, if your Unit is participating in "Members Remember," please let me know so I may include that activity in my information.

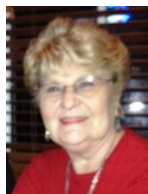
Remember to record your activities surround the American Legion Birthday as well.

For God and Country,

Tina Hurst, Historian



EDUCATION



Ladies ,we have a great opportunity to reach out and let the people in our communities know about our great scholarships , Girls State, Boy State and our Oratorical Program.

All scholarship applications are on www.missla.com. Remember the American Legion Samsung scholarship is on line at www.legion.org/samsung.

For GOD and Country,

June Laws, Chairman



GIRLS STATE



Ready, Set, Go! The 2016 Magnolia Girls State delegate selection is underway!

At Mid-Winter Conference, we had a great turn-out for the Unit Girls State Orientation Workshop. We thank you for attending and picking up your application packets. Also, we hope the information provided will help your unit with the process as we want great delegates for the June 5-10 session at The University of Southern Mississippi.

To help our Units to financially support this premier program of the American Legion Auxiliary, we have reduced the fee this year to \$200 per delegate. Hopefully, the reduction will either encourage each Unit to sponsor an extra delegate with your savings or encourage a non-participating unit to send us a delegate...try it, you'll LOVE it!

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. We must, as Units, follow these dates 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!!

Also, we encouraged Units to unite 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!

Work together as a District, perhaps through your District President, and let's prepare these young ladies for an experience of a lifetime! Call me! (On second thought, email me as I can't always find my phone!)

For God and Country,

Angela Kilcrease, Chairman/Director



AUXILIARY BASICS COURSE

The ALA Leadership Correspondence Course has been renamed the "Auxiliary Basics" Course. Every Auxiliary should take the time to complete this course—it will teach each of us the history of our organization and give more insight on who we are, what we do and why we matter. Being informed and learning the concepts of good leadership insures our success.

Please encourage each Unit member—particularly new members—to participate in this course. Unit members may take the course at home individually or at a meeting as a group. The course may be found online at www.missala.com or email angelakilcrease@bellsouth.net (who will send you a copy to make copies by for your members).

Once you've completed the course, send the cover sheet and answer sheet to the Department Leadership Chairman for grading—Angela Kilcrease, 720 Tyler Avenue, Tylertown, MS 39667. Completion cards will be issued at State Convention in July

CAVALCADE OF MEMORIES



National President Sharon's theme this year is keeping the promise to not forget our veterans. What have we given towards keeping the promise of collecting, conserving, preserving and sharing the story of the Auxiliary's service to our veterans, active military and their families with the world?

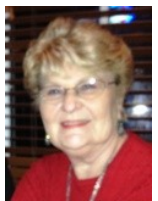
This is a huge responsibility. It isn't just putting up displays or dusting the collection. It's about celebrating special times, anniversaries, a longtime member, and our services to others. It's about learning our history so that we can properly and correctly share those stories, moments, and experiences.

It's about getting others interested in the history. So, let's begin to ask ourselves "what have I given today to that purpose?" I hope it will become a resolution we all can keep.

For God and Country, *Dee Starkey, Chairman*



KATHY DUNGAN STEERING COMMITTEE



At Mid-Winter Conference, we had our first Cash Bash Drawing. Joe Kersh won \$200, and he donated it back..YEAH..Thank you! Joe Voil and Stan Rayburn won \$300, and Kris West won \$500.

It's not too late to buy a ticket our next drawing will be later this month. We are having a Classic Car Show June 4th at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church in Bay St Louis. We will need Sponsor Awards, Silent Auction items and volunteers. Please email me if you need Flyers, Sponsor Award Sheets or any additional info.

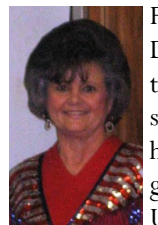
We have some units that are planning fundraisers, and Lou will be having Poker Hands for sell at State Convention. We will have some great raffles.

Please let me know when you are having a fundraiser; if possible, Kathy and I would like to attend.

For God and Country, *June Laws, Chairman*



AMERICANISM



February is Americanism Month; therefore I want to encourage/challenge/beg/entice all 83 units within the Department of Mississippi to come up with a different patriotic salute/activity/whatever. As Americanism Chairman, there will be a \$50 bonus to whoever has the best idea! There has been a relay race entitled "Run for the Flag." Also, several years ago a unit asked for a short biography concerning "The Flag" being flown at their residence or business in honor of their beloved veteran. If room permits, I will submit that biography in coming months. Last year at a football game on Veterans Day, the school cheerleaders did a salute entitled "One Nation Under God." I heard talk about a Unit/Post would be sending a "Pocket Flag" to current active military persons overseas. That is an activity to submit to Americanism, because the "Pocket Flag Project" falls under this program.

As chairman, there were only 14 reports submitted for Mid-Winter. Ladies, let's get busy and be patriotic for February with the possibility of being a winner of \$50!

Patriotic Quips: "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman" by American patriot, Thomas Paine.

Dates to Remember: Feb 1st, National Freedom Day, Feb 2nd Groundhog Day, Feb 4th (1941) USO incorporated, Feb 8th (1910) Boys Scouts of American Founded, Feb 10th Ash Wednesday, Feb 12th Lincoln's Birthday, Feb 14th Sweetheart Day, Feb 15th President's Day & Susan B Anthony Day, Feb 19th (1945) Battle of Iwo Jima began, Feb 22nd Washington's Birthday, Feb 23rd (1991) Desert Storm Ground War began, Feb 27th (1991) Desert Storm Ground War ended after 100 hours, and Feb 29th Leap Year.

For God and Country,

Wendy Walters, Chairman



MEMBERSHIP



We were challenged by NSDVP Flora Jean Craig to be 63% by the end of Mid-Winter Conference. I am happy to say that we met and exceeded that goal. Thank you to all who turned in membership!

Congratulations to the Units who met the 100% by December 31 goal. These units earned \$100 from National: Lucedale 53, Bay Springs 71, Louisville 62, Meridian 21, Nesbit 1990, Corinth 6, Philadelphia 138, Aberdeen 26, Tishomingo 144, Iuka 15, Pontotoc 16, West Point 212, Brandon 68, Ocean Springs 42, and Lakeshore 152.

There is still a chance for your unit to earn \$150 by reaching 102% goal by 30 days prior to National Convention. All of the 100% units need to be working toward that goal, too.

We are currently #32 in the Nation, coming in at 65.66%. We are not giving up. We can do this, but it is going to take all of us. Work harder, Mississippi. Remember, Membership is everybody's business. By working together, we will succeed.

For God and Country,

Diane Belue, Chairman

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

100% Units

Greenwood 200 West Point 212 Ocean Springs 42 Lakeshore 152

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		



WHITE CHICKEN CHILI

(COMMANDER'S HOSPITALITY CHILI AT MID-WINTER CONFERENCE)

- 4 CHICKEN BREASTS
- 1 CAN CHICKEN BROTH
- 4 CANS OF WHITE NORTHERN BEANS
- 1 CAN CREAM OF CHICKEN SOUP
- 8 OZ. PKG. OF SOUR CREAM
- 1 CAN ROTEL
- 1 LB. BOX OF VELVEETA CHEESE
- 2 CANS OF WHITE SHOEPEG CORN
- 1 PKG. MCCORMICK WHITE CHICKEN CHILI MIX
- 1 STICK OF BUTTER
- 1 ONION (CHOPPED)
- 2 CHICKEN BOUILLON CUBES
- 4 OZ. CAN GREEN CHILIES
- 2 GARLIC CLOVES (PRESSED)



BOIL CHICKEN BREASTS, COOKING UNTIL CHICKEN FALLS APART. DICE, THEN SAUTE ONION, CELERY AND BELL PEPPER IN BUTTER; ADD MCCORMICK WHITE CHILI MIX WHEN VEGETABLES ARE ALMOST TENDER. ADD BOUILLON TO HOT WATER (1/4 C.) TO MELT; ADD TO VEGETABLES.

OPEN ALL OTHER INGREDIENTS AND PUT IN A CROCKPOT (DO NOT DRAIN ANYTHING). ADD SAUTEED VEGETABLES AND TURN CROCKPOT ON HIGH UNTIL VELVEETA CHEESE IS MELTED.



DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MISSISSIPPI

ALSO JOIN: ALA SOUTHERN DIVISION



FROM THE DEPT. SECRETARY



It was wonderful seeing you who attended Mid-Winter Conference. As was announced, the poppies are in, and we will begin boxing them this week for the units. Most of you do not hold your poppy days until May; however, if you are planning your projects before Spring conferences, please let us know as soon as possible so we can ship yours to you. Our regular supplier was unable to provide our poppies this year and we had to go to Arkansas for our order. They were very prompt.

While we are talking Spring conferences, we only have two dates and places reported to the Department so far. Central Area Conference will be at Columbus Post 69 on April 9, 2016. Southern Area Conference will be at Gautier-Vancleave Post 1992 on April 23, 2016. We would appreciate any information on the Northern Area Conference.

For those units who made their 100% in membership prior to December 31, if you have not received your \$100 check by next weekend, please notify the Department, and we will tell you where National sent your check. Sometimes Units change their "remit to" officers and forget to notify the Department. It is very important to let us know of any changes in your unit officers as soon as possible so the correct person receives notices, etc. from the Department and National.

Thank you to all of you who had so many kind words for your Department Secretary at Mid-Winter. Now you know why you are so special. It makes my job so enjoyable to speak with all of you. If you have any concerns and need to speak with headquarters, we are always ready, willing and prepared to assist you.

For God and Country,

Nancy Sanders, Dept. Secretary/Treasurer



IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Our heartfelt condolences go out to those in our Legion family who recently lost their soulmate:

NEC Robert Gosa and family for the passing of his wife Nancy

PDP Bessie Ladner and family for the passing of her husband and dedicated Legionnaire Hershel

Also, condolences to the family of PDC James Edwards for the passing of his stepmother

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