

Department of
Mississippi

Magnolia



AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY

Serving veterans, their families and their communities

Monthly
Newsletter

Jan. 2014



GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Happy New Year, everyone! A new year filled with working together to serve our veterans, active service members, their families and prayers for peace. People getting along, no fighting; a novel idea, don't you think? Maybe someday.

Mid-Winter Conference will be here before we know it. Hope to see you there---The Natchez Grand Hotel, January 17-19, 2014. We will have National President Nancy

Brown-Park as our special guest and some special events planned for your entertainment. One of my goals was to have fun this year, and I believe Natchez will provide fun, fun, fun!

We want President Nancy to see how much we have done and will be doing the rest of this year, so I'm asking that all Program Chairmen are prepared to report on activities. If by chance you aren't able to attend, please make arrangements for someone else to stand in for you.

So far this year, we have received four requests for assistance from veterans and family members. Thankfully,

we have been able to provide what was needed, but funds are getting low. The money from the fund-raisers and donations, for my special project, will help replenish this fund, so we can continue to answer these requests. Please do what you can to help.

Have you paid your dues? As of December 31, 2013, you are delinquent, if you have not. There are still a few "goose egg" units and others with just a couple paid members; did you know that unit officer's dues should have been paid by now?

**CALENDAR OF
EVENTS**

2014 MID-WINTER
CONFERENCE

JAN. 17-19,
GRAND HOTEL
NATCHEZ

I (we) would love to have 100% membership this year; 107% would make us very, very happy! Your help in reaching this goal is greatly appreciated. The more members we have the more we can do. Please pray for our veterans, our active duty service members, their families.

*Rose Blanchard
Department President*

1ST VICE PRESIDENT-PROGRAMS COORDINATOR



The new year is here! Hopefully, you all had a wonderful Christmas and have welcomed in 2014. Your Mid-Year Reports should already be in the hands of the Department Chairmen. What a privilege we have to serve our Veterans, and I know you all have served them this past year. Thank you, American Legion Auxiliary.

I want to share something with all of you, I have just read an article written by a young soldier that has been deployed overseas for the third time. He leaves behind a wife and young daughter, his daughters first Christmas. He talks about how we are all wrapped in what is happening with the Movie Stars and Politicians and do not seem to be paying much attention to the fact that our Military are having benefits cut and threats

of more cuts. Ladies, I share this only because what we do and what we report are the one thing we can do to help these Active Military and our Veterans. We want them to see that The American Legion Auxiliary is paying attention to their needs and want to help them. This story is just one of the reasons why we need more membership and more reporting to continue to help.

Mid-Winter Conference 2014 is getting ready to kick-off in Natchez. Hope you are all making plans to attend. All of you Dept. Program Chairmen, please bring me a copy of your report to Mid-Winter Report.

For God and Country,

Mary Barrett, 1st V. P.



2ND VICE PRESIDENT-VA&R CHAIRMAN



I hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas, and enjoyed your family, that is what Christmas is all about.

We should all give thanks for our health and our Veterans. Gift Shops and Christmas Cheer was a success, thanks to all of our VA Reps for doing such a great job.

We have a wonderful organization. I have received some wonderful Mid-Year reports from our units, and I am sure there are other units who have worked just as hard.

Remember reporting the things we do for our Veterans is what helps us to have a voice. Thank you for all of your hard work, and I know you all do this with a lot of love.

I look forward to seeing you soon in Natchez at our 2014 Mid-Winter Conference. Sounds like it's going to be lots of fun!

Remember, WE DON'T MONKEY AROUND!!

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



Looking back over the past six months, we can be extremely grateful for our accomplishments. We have not achieved all that we hoped for but we can be thankful for what we have completed. We've closed 2013 and have begun 2014. What will your New Year resolution be?

Sadly we lost one of our Past Department Commanders, Mr. Charles Scott. He was a knight in shining armor for those of us who needed guidance in helping our veterans. May his soul rest in peace for his work was well done. We will miss him.

In 2014, I wish each and every one joy, peace and a prosperous New Year. Let us remember history as it was passed on. The pilgrimage to France for the 1927 national convention took more than 27,000 Legion and Auxiliary members to Europe.

With the leviathan as flagship, the American veterans and female family members crossed the Atlantic in peacetime. The Salvation Army's Doughnut Girl in World War I, Irene McIntyre Walbridge of New Hampshire was elected National President. Now let us make history that we can pass on.

Those of you who have sent your history reports, I thank you. Those of you who have not sent your report, may I remind you to do so now. Please write your report in a narrative form if you can. Call me if you need information or have questions.

What are you doing with your scrapbook? Please start working on it. Time is shorter than you think. Seniors and juniors, let us join together with the New Year's resolution "We will do better in 2014."

May each of you be blessed all thru the New Year.

For God and Country,

Eva Ford, Dept. Historian

NEWS FROM DEPT. CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

DEPARTMENT SUPPORT FUND



I am still on the mend and looking forward to a great time in January at the Carnival Ball at the 2014 Mid-Winter Conference.

Our Support fund project this year is the Carnival Ball, Afghan Raffle and Poker Run. These will all be completed at Mid-Winter Conference. Our candidates for the Carnival Ball have worked very hard. Some of you have sent in money and some of you haven't sent in anything. I can't tell you how much I have because it will all be a surprise.

All right, let's start some Monkeying Around--now's the time. We have over \$7,000 to raise. We can do it because we've done it before. There's an old WWI Song called "We did it before, and we can do it again." I'm going to find the words and you MONKEYS are going to be singing it when we reach our goal.

Thanks and Happy New Year to you all! Now Get 'er done.

Lou Wilkerson, Chairman

Bring Plenty of Dollars to Mid-Winter Conference to support our Fundraisers for the Department Support Fund!



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Hi Ladies,

Do you know the story of the Four Chaplains aboard the "Dorchester," that gave their lives for their fellow comrades? After being torpedoed by a German submarine on Feb. 3, 1943, four Army chaplains brought calm and hope to the young soldiers. These men of different faiths were united in their love of God and Country.

The country boy, the city boy, the slum kid, and the parson's son, these four remained the calmest on board a ship in total confusion, giving up their own life jackets to the youngest soldiers and telling them to jump. The chaplains were last seen on the slanted deck praying the Lord's Prayer.

Can we stand united in our love of God and Country? Do we have the courage to stand up for our beliefs and give the ultimate sacrifice?

I know all of us have heard the slogan "all gave some, some gave all," but do you have the love of God and Country in your heart? Our soldiers leave their families and friends every day to protect and serve this great nation. United we stand, divided we fall. Can we do less for our veterans?

Hope everyone had a great Christmas and Happy New Year. Looking forward to seeing you at Mid-Winter Conference in Natchez.

For God and Country,

Jackie Baughman, Dept. Chaplain



NEWS FROM DEPT. CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ladies, we are doing great in raising funds for the President's Special Project—we have paid for the calendars. Jackson 112 really came thru for us by buying 100 calendars for \$1000. Way to go 112! With our calendars, raffles, Dollars for Veterans, and Lil Ms Monk, we have \$2055 raise so far for our veterans needs. Great start.

Please keep selling the calendars as time is running out. I must remind everyone the calendars you do not sell, please bring to Mid-Winter Conference. If you are not coming, let me know, and I will tell you who is coming so you can give to them. Still haven't heard from some you...

We are excited about Karaoke on Friday night of the conference, from 7 to 11 p.m. We'll have wine, cheese, crackers—with this you must have grapes ...right? Those that do not drink wine, we will have coffee all for just \$5. Tommy and Brenda are planning a very fun night for everyone. Lil Ms Monk will be at Mid-Winter Conference, and she can't wait to see you. You know her—she's always hungry, so bring your change, and she loves green backs. We will also be doing Dollars for Veterans and raffles.

For God and Country,

June Laws Chairman

LEGISLATIVE



Hi! I hope everyone had a great holiday! I am proud of the response of our units from the mid-year reports. We are working to keep veteran's issues in front of legislators. Good job units!!

Let's keep talking to our government representatives; they need to know all the issues that our veterans face.

Hope to see everyone at Mid Winter Conference!

For God and Country,

Beverly Cottom, Chairman

LEADERSHIP

Wishing all of you a wonderful 2014 Mid-Winter Conference! At 10 a.m. on Friday of the conference, right after the Dept. Executive Committee meeting, we have a special Leadership program to present—and you won't be listening to Nancy and I! Please plan to attend to not only earn workshop hours, but to hear a great presentation.

Remember to continue working on Leadership Correspondence Courses. Never to late to take the test!

For God and Country,

Angela Kilcrease and Nancy Sanders, Co-Chairmen

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Well, the New Year has arrived. I hope everyone had a great New Year, but now it is time to get to work in our communities. I received several reports in December, however I didn't receive as many as I should have. I will be giving a report on the ones I did receive but by State Convention, I would like to see a report from all of our Units. Everyone, please get out in your communities, and let's get some things going on out there and be seen. Put the Auxiliary out there for everyone to see. Thank you, and I look forward to seeing everyone at Mid-Winter Conference in Natchez.

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!

When National President Nancy joins us at Mid-Winter, we'll have much to celebrate. And, remember, our next membership incentive is coming to us, compliments of our State Commander of The American Legion, Angie Baughman, who has given the Department \$200 to be used for membership. Here's how it will go—each unit who reaches 100% and above by Mid-Winter Conference will have their unit placed in the hat for a chance at a \$200 prize on Saturday of the conference. I want to have a full hat of unit names when it comes time for my platform report at Mid-Winter Conference.

Unfortunately, I will be missing my first Mid-Winter Conference since I became a member of ALA, as I will be visiting the Department of Oklahoma that weekend. However, our Dept. Secretary and my partner in membership crime, Nancy Sanders, will give my report. She says she has been practicing on how to talk like me, so we'll see...you can give me a report on how she does. Thank you all for your hard work for membership and bless you! We're moving on up!!

For God and Country,

Angela Kilcrease, Chairman

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF MISSISSIPPI'S
100 PERCENT (PLUS!) UNITS!**

Corinth 207 (107.70%) Fulton 51 (102.28%) Baldwin 130 (105.89%) Nesbit 1990 (118.29%)
Tishomingo 144 (100%) Corinth 207 (107.70%) Grenada 35 (180%) Kosciusko 44 (100%)
Ackerman 82 (100%) Vicksburg 3 (100%) Yazoo City (109/09%) Tylertown 56 (101.24%)
Bay Springs 71 (133.34%) Mendenhall 74 (154.55%) Lucedale 53 (108.34%)

As of 1/10/2014 report

70% Plus UNITS!

Aberdeen 26 Tupelo 49 Pontotoc 16 New Albany 72 Ripley 81 Baldwin 130
Calhoun City 50 Hickory Flat 128 Horn Lake 134 Cleveland 165
West Point 38 Greenwood 29 Ackerman 82 Carthage 168
Carthage 219 Canton 67 Jackson 91 McComb 14 Liberty 76 Wesson 79
Tylertown 120 Laurel 11 Laurel 210 Hattiesburg 24
Ocean Springs 42 Waveland 77 Gulfport 119 Bay St. Louis 139
Petal 146 Standard 58 Lakeshore 152 Gautier/Vancleave 1992

DISTRICT WHO HAVE REACHED 70% PLUS:

District 8: 89.75% and leading the pack!

District 1: 78.87% District 2: 75.46% District 4: 70.92%

District 7: 70.75%



DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MISSISSIPPI

ALSO JOIN: ALA SOUTHERN DIVISION



**Don't Monkey
Around!**

FROM THE DEPT. SECRETARY



Greetings from the Department!

Greetings for the New Year from the Department! What a way to begin 2014! This secretary spent my entire 10-day vacation in the bed with the flu and it really kicked me good! Now that I'm back in the office, I feel better. Now, on to business.

Enclosed in this newsletter is your request form for poppies. We ordered 45,000 this year. The amount grows each year and we are really working the Poppy program. The order should be in the Department by March 1. If you plan to order poppies this year, please get your order to us by March 15. Poppies are getting scarce and you cannot order them through Emblem Sales anymore. We will fill all orders until we are out. The probability of getting more is very small. **DON'T FORGET!**

We are very busy preparing for Midwinter. Don't forget that National President Nancy Brown-Park will be with us. We will want to put our best foot forward. If you plan to bring a gift, PLEASE don't make it a heavy or extra large gift. We have to mail all of the gifts she receives to her home and the larger the parcel, the more of a chance of the parcel being damaged through shipment. Believe me, we have lost some valuable gifts through parcel damage.

For your information, the Junior Auxiliary will be meeting in a suite this year. We will post signs as to the room number in the foyer. Natchez is quite expensive when it comes to paying for a meeting room and the insurance coverage. However, we want to make sure the Junior Auxiliary is comfortable and can stay in their meeting room as long as they need to without having to share with the SAL. This was the most reasonable decision.

If we at Headquarters can be of service, please do not hesitate to contact us.

For God and Country I remain,

Nancy Sanders, Dept. Secretary/Treasurer