

Department of  
Mississippi

Magnolia



AMERICAN LEGION  
AUXILIARY

Serving veterans, their families and their communities

Monthly  
Newsletter

Jan. 2016



## GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



HAPPY NEW YEAR!! We've welcomed a new year, and I hope everyone had a great holiday season. We were very fortunate to have been able to celebrate our holiday with family and friends. I have enjoyed sharing in the Christmas spirit with units throughout the state. I was not able to make some, but thank you for the invitation. I would like to visit as many units as I can this year.

**Mid-Winter Conference is here:** all reports should have been sent to the committee chairmen, so we all can hear what has been going on in the units. We have an amazing group of ladies who volunteer for the Veterans and the communities, and it is great to hear what they accomplish. Please attend the Mid-Winter Conference and bring neighbors and friends along with you. We need members and I am sure Diane, our membership chairman, will appreciate your help-- it is good to see new faces in our Auxiliary. Be prepared to learn and have fun!

During the day Saturday we

will have a PARADE of Butterfly's in the American Legion room so bring your Wings for a FUN time. There will be a Game Night Saturday (with Chili and snacks) with the proceeds going to the Department Support Fund and President's Special Project (National Veterans Creative Arts Festival).

Also, Kathy Dungan, our candidate for National President (2019), will also need our support. Thank you for supporting all of these projects.

WE thank all of the units that are growing with new members.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2016  
Mid-Winter Conference  
January 29-31, 2016  
Natchez

Working together and having goodwill towards others is what will make our organization grow. If I can do anything to help your unit, please do not hesitate to call me.

See you at Mid-Winter with a SMILE on your face and remember--FLY WITH ME, GOODWILL WE WILL SEE.

For God and Country,

*Anita McAllister*  
Department President

## 1ST VICE PRESIDENT-PROGRAMS COORDINATOR



Many thanks to those who attended the holiday activities, performed acts of appreciation and showed love to our veterans and their families. I hope each of you had a wonderful holiday season. Congratulations to post and unit 68 for their wonderful Christmas activity at the veteran nursing home. Let us always remember our veterans

and families during this most sensitive time of year. We should make a pledge to each other to renew our commitment to the mission of the auxiliary and extend our gratitude throughout the year in continuous acts of giving and helping.

Now as we begin a new year, let us recommit ourselves to the cause. We should begin the New Year remembering how great it was for our veterans to serve our country and most of

all how blessed we are that they served.

With the holiday season in the past and the new year in progress, I just know all of you got your reports in on time. Thank you.

Additionally, we should start getting our reports organized for year-end elections and chairmanships. Let me know what position you would prefer. We all have work to do.

Most importantly, "Do you know anyone who would be interested in serving as department secretary? Call me at 601-638-3086.

Hopefully every unit across the state is on the band wagon to continue building our units and conducting programs to assist our veterans.

God bless each of you and God bless America.

*Eva Ford, 1st Vice*

## 2ND VICE PRESIDENT-VA&R CHAIRMAN



2016 is here! I hope each of you had a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Ladies, don't forget about the Veterans Creative Arts Festival that we will help host in October 2016. It will be here before you know it. As always thank you for

the great job you do in taking care of our Veterans. I had 14 units turn in a mid-year report, I know a lot more units do for the Veterans, don't be bashful in sharing what your unit has done. By sharing your activities/events other units can get ideas to better serve our Veterans. I appreciate those units who turned in a report and really enjoyed the pictures you sent with them.

We are several months from the deadline

of year end reports BUT don't let that stop you from keeping a record of everything you have done for our Veterans. The year-end report is due to me by 1 May 2016.

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18-5, Bay Springs, MS 39422 OR 956  
CR 17, Bay Springs, MS 39422

*Angie Baughman*  
*2nd Vice President*

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER – DEPT. CHAPLAIN



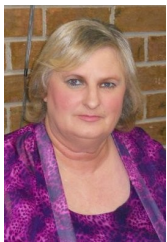
*Almighty God, Father of all mankind and Judge over nations, we pray Thee to guide our work in this meeting and in all our days. Send Thy peace to our nation and to all nations. Hasten the fulfillment of Thy promise of peace that shall have no end.*

*We pray for all those who serve the people and guard the public welfare; that by Thy blessing they may be enabled to discharge their duties honestly and well. We pray for our members; that by Thy help they may observe the strictest justice; keep alight the fires of freedom, strive earnestly for the spirit of democracy, and preserve untarnished our loyalty to our Country and to Thee.*

*We especially ask Thy blessing and comfort for all those who are suffering from the ravages of war. May our duty to them be ever alive in our minds. Finally, O God of Mercy, we remember lovingly before Thee our departed heroes who received from Thee the reward of life everlasting. May their splendid example guide us, now and forever. Be with us, we pray. Amen.*

*Charlotte Williams, Chaplain*

## PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT



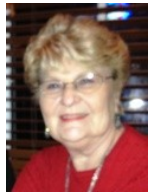
Hello, due to medical reasons, I will be taking over as the Special Project Chairman for the remainder of this year.

We have a lot going on as we try to raise money for the Veteran's Creative Arts Festival in 2016. As everyone knows, we are selling raffle tickets for a TV and a Happy Hour Basket. We will also be selling chili at the Department Support Fund event at Mid-Winter Conference on Saturday night. Please contact me if you need tickets for these raffles. Remember, when you sell the tickets, please send the money collected to the Department Office, so we can get it accounted for in a timely manner.

I look forward to being a part of this fundraising for the rest of the year, and if there is anything I can do or if you need anything from me, please feel free to contact me. My number has changed so I can be reached at 601-405-4187 or e-mail [naseward@gmail.com](mailto:naseward@gmail.com).

*Melissa D. Seward, Special Projects Chairman*

## EDUCATION



Well, 2015 is behind us and a great new year is starting. I would like to say THANKS to all the Units that sent in their Mid-Year report. Now is the time to start looking forward.

We have great Scholarships and we need to start getting the message out there now. I had this information sent from National. The Samsung American Legion Scholarship is on line. The application is now up and running at <http://www.legion.org/samsung>. This is the only link to the application. All applications must be submitted on line --no exceptions.

Also let's start spreading the word about Girl State and Boy State.

Don't forget the High School Oratorical Scholarship Program...this is for students in Grades 9 – 12. Register online [www.mslegionratorical](http://www.mslegionratorical) or Joe Kersh at [rdmastr@comcast.net](mailto:rdmastr@comcast.net).

The youth we help today is our future for tomorrow. Let's get them and their parents involved.

For GOD and Country,

*June Laws, Chairman*

## LEADERSHIP AND GIRLS STATE—TOGETHER!



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 remind everyone 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.

For this special workshop, we will roll out the 2016 Girls State session information AND teach you all how to select good delegates, process their registration, and offer orientation assistance.

Magnolia Girls State is one of our best programs, and we want all of our units to be on the same page as we begin our official Girls State season!

For God and Country,

*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)**

## PUBLIC RELATIONS



I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday with friends and family. Now let's "Fly High" and "Ring the Bell" in 2016.

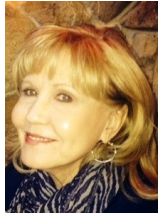
Congratulations to Laurel Unit 210 on winning the bell ringer for the month of December. Remember ladies, when you post your events on Facebook, make sure you tag me so I can see what you're doing. We want your community to know the work you do for our veterans, and we want to share your dedication with the other units and National.

Remember that tree? If it falls in the forest and no one's there to hear it, it makes no sound. So let's ring that bell or toot that horn, but whatever you do, let's hear about it. Thank you to the units who submitted reports, and I will see you in Natchez in a couple of weeks.

For God and Country,

*Agnes Wilkerson Dalton, Chairman*

## CAVALCADE OF MEMORIES



I received an e-mail from Cathi Taylor, American Legion Auxiliary Archivist & Data Projects Coordinator. She is asking that we work with our Department Historian to make a new project come to life. The project is aptly named "Members Remember." It's an oral history project of sorts whereby our members talk about their lives with the Auxiliary.

This is truly a two-person project. We recommend that you involve your older Junior members (high school age) for two reasons: 1) they are computer savvy--they know how to tape videos on cell phones and how to post them on YouTube; and 2) we are looking for ways to engage them so they remain members. The video should be no longer than 5 minutes, and a member may make more than one on a different subject.

### STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS:

**Here are some tips. Find long time members of the Auxiliary and ask them to share their stories in video. These stories can be about:** a special project; a particular highlight during her membership; how many generations of her family have been members and why; or if a chartered member, her experience in starting the unit.

Find a location where it is quiet and where there will be no interruptions. Record with iPhones/smartphones. Please keep in mind your video file must be either a .mov, .avi, .mpeg or a .wmv file extension. Post the video on YouTube. An instruction video on how to upload is located at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07iUiftbKU>.

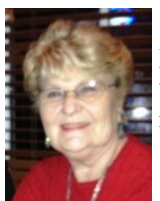
Go to YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com>. Give the video the following title: *ALA Dept. of MS Unit # Members Remember*, then provide a description and tags that will help viewers locate the file easily. These will make it easier for others to locate the videos. Under Category, click on Nonprofits & Activism. Under Privacy, click on Share your video with the world. Click Save Changes.

Please let me know how many your unit has recorded and posted to YouTube, and I will forward this information to Cathi. My e-mail is [starkeydee@hotmail.com](mailto:starkeydee@hotmail.com). Thank you for supporting this project.

For God and Country,

*Dee Starkey, Chairman*

## KATHY DUNGAN STEERING COMMITTEE



Kathy and I have made the decision to end the Cash Bash fundraiser. The support was not there. We appreciate all of you that did support the Cash Bash. We will draw for 5 months starting at Mid-Winter Conference. We will draw three (3) tickets each month. We will refund anyone's money up to Mid Winter. Once we start drawing there will not be anymore refunds. We are sorry we had to make this decision.

On a brighter note we do have some fund raisers in the works. Unit 112 is having a fundraiser this month. Also the Southern Area is having a Classic Car Show on June 4<sup>th</sup>. This should be a big money maker. We will need a lot of help on this and you can start now. We will have a silent auction. Now everything is on sale. I noticed in the paper today that Hobby Lobby had 80% off. Also we will need donations for food, water and paper products.

Please start thinking what fundraisers your unit can have.

For God and Country,

*June Laws, Chairman*

## DEPARTMENT SUPPORT FUND



Hi Ladies, or should I say butterflies,

The Department Support Fund is beginning to take shape. We have two items for raffle: (1) a 60 quart cooker and (2) a gift basket full of items as, powder, lotions, bath salts, linen bath set, manicure set, wine, Bloody Mary mix, two different kinds of soap from Spain, and much, much more. When you see us, please stop and purchase raffle tickets.

For Mid-Winter Conference, we will have a butterfly parade, with four divisions, Department, District, Members, and Junior members. Everyone is to dress as a butterfly. The parade will be at reconvening of Auxiliary meeting on Saturday (1 p.m.). The butterflies will parade in the Legion meeting room with the largest amount of money collected, all proceeds going to the Department Support Fund, per group being the winner, with a prize going to the winner. For the participating district members, the money collected by the districts will be divided equally amount them. Example: only five districts participate. money divided among the five districts, not all nine districts.

Saturday night is game night. You will play games to win tickets, which you will place in bag in front of item or items you want to win. At present time, we have around 50 prizes. This should be a lot of fun!!!!!! So come out and enjoy yourself and bring plenty of MONEY.

Jackie Baughman, 956 CR 17, Bay Springs, MS; e-mail [jbauxiliary@ymail.com](mailto:jbauxiliary@ymail.com) or call (601) 480-6415.

### District Names at present time:

District One. Diane Belue—Monarch

District Two. Barbara Palmertree—?

District Three. Mary Riddle—Great Purple Hairstreak

District Four. Joyce Porter —?

District Five, Wendi Walters—Zebra Swallow Tail

District Six. Mattie Harris—Palamedes Swallow Tail

District Seven, Tibethia Smith—Queen Alexandra's Birdwing

District Eight, Peggy McCluskey—Metal Mark

District Nine, Dianell Miller—Peacock

Department, Jackie Baughman—Painted Lady

For God and Country,

*Jackie Baughman, Chairman*





## DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

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**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

**WWW.MISSALA.COM**

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JOIN OUR GROUP ON FACEBOOK



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MISSISSIPPI

ALSO JOIN: ALA SOUTHERN DIVISION

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**Note from Poppy Chairman  
Shirley Turner:**

My computer has been “sick” and was unable to retrieve Poppy reports sent to me via email. If your unit sent a report via email, I need you to resend to me by snail mail as soon as possible.

Thanks!

## FROM THE DEPT. SECRETARY



Greetings from the Department. Thank you again for being patient in my vacation absence. I was not playing. I had extensive oral surgery done, and it took three weeks to heal enough for me not to be goofy on painkillers. I'm back in the saddle now. While on vacation, I was able to keep up with our weekly membership transmittals, do prep work for Mid-winter Conference and work on the Department Policies and Procedures which should be ready for approval at our Mid-winter DEC meeting.

Don't forget to remind your members they will not be members in good standing after December 31 unless they pay their 2016 dues. With the tornadoes being rampant in Mississippi, I would pay my dues for the purpose of being in good standing in case my home received damage. That's only one good reason. The other reason is National will be pulling “unpaid” members in preparation of sending out second notices on January 15. No one wants to be notified a second time!

Please be reminded that the poppy order will go out by January 15 also. Remember, it's a one-time-a-year order. Don't be caught empty-handed!

We hope members of your Unit will be able to attend Mid-Winter Conference in Natchez, January 28-30. Flora Jean Craig, our Southern Division National Vice President, will be visiting with us. We would love to have a large gathering. Our conference will again be the “round tables.” As your Department Secretary, this will be my last “official” Mid-winter Conference, and I would love to see as many of you as possible to tell you how special you are, and have been, to me.

As most of you know, the American Legion Auxiliary, Dept. of Mississippi, and the Veterans Administration will be co-hosting our very first National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in October 2016. Because of my residency (15 minutes from everywhere here in the Metropolitan area), Madam President has given me the appointment to chair this terrifying event. Many, many volunteers will be needed for this week-long event, so be prepared to say “YES” when we ask you to help. It will be our responsibility to man and maintain a hospitality room at the hotel of the participants and their caregivers/family during that week and to help out behind the scenes in assisting these veterans with whatever their needs are. We have been diligently working through our President's Special Project to make money to put this together as that is our responsibility. It takes thousands. Mississippi doesn't want to be as good as the other states who hosted this – we want to be better. We will be keeping you all updated as time goes by.

See you soon!

*Nancy Sanders, Dept. Secretary/Treasurer*