

Department of  
Mississippi

*Magnolia*



AMERICAN LEGION  
AUXILIARY

*Serving veterans, their families and their communities*

Monthly  
Newsletter

July 2013



## GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Hello ladybugs, I hope that all of you are beating the heat. It has been hot in Mississippi, but not in our membership. PLLLLLEEEEESSSEEEEE, I am now begging you to get the membership in! We are within reach of our goal and some of the units only need a few members to reach their goal, and if they do, then the department does. We

certainly want to be able to attend the National Convention and have 100% membership. I am hoping that by State Convention that the 100% will be a reality. I do want to thank all the units who have made their 100% membership goal, and the District Presidents for all their help this year with membership.

State Convention is nearly here, and I hope to see a lot of ladybugs running around Vicksburg. There is a lot that must be taken care of at the convention, so I would ask that each unit send as many as possible to attend. If you

want your unit's voice to be heard, then be there!

**There will be a Silent Auction for the Support Fund**, so look around and find something good to bring for this. We want to have the tables full and everyone to come and place a bid on the items. Don't forget and bring plenty of dollars, because we have the laptop that will be given away and other items to be raffled at the convention.



SHIRLEY FRASER  
SOUTHERN DIV.  
NATIONAL VICE  
PRESIDENT

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- State Convention  
July 11-14, Vicksburg

**We will have Shirley Fraser, Southern Division National Vice President, as our special guest at State Convention.** Please make an effort to be there and meet her. We want to show her Mississippi hospitality at its best and let her know how glad we are that she is there. A reception is being planned in her honor.

*Continued on Page 4*

## 1ST VICE PRESIDENT-PROGRAMS COORDINATOR



*Winging our way for ALA...*

"Ladybug, ladybug fly away home. " While trying to decide where to start my last article as your 1<sup>st</sup> VP, this little ditty kept coming to mind, so I needed to share it.

We have had a busy year and President Sarah has been on the road, more than being home, but this will change soon and she will get reacquainted her home. Thank you, Sarah, for

your service to our organization and our veterans!

I won't try to name everyone (not enough space), but a huge thank you to the other officers, Committee Chairmen/ Committee Members and every one that has contributed their time and energy to doing what we do best, serving our veterans. At times we fail to recognize the work of ladies that keep us informed and on the right path....Thank you Angela Kilcrease, Newsletter Editor/Web Mistress, Nancy

Sanders, Department Secretary, our PDPs for sharing their knowledge and wisdom. Believe me when I say you are loved and appreciated, more than you know.

Soon we will be in Vicksburg for our Convention and am excited to hear all the good works you have done this year and see who receives those coveted awards. From all that I've heard, it will be a fun time, so try to join us July 12-14.

For God and Country,  
*Rose Blanchard*

## 2012-2013 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

SARAH EDWARDS, PRESIDENT  
ROSE BLANCHARD, 1ST V. P.  
MARY BARRETT, 2ND V. P.  
DIANE LAWRENCE, HISTORIAN  
PATRICIA WHITNEY, CHAPLAIN  
MARY RIED, NEC  
MARY LYLES, ALT. NEC  
NANCY SANDERS, SECRETARY/  
TREASURER

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## 2ND VICE PRESIDENT-VA&R CHAIRMAN



It does not seem possible that this year is coming to a close. I have learned so much and have met so many new faces. I was trying to count how many new people I have met and after 45 names, I quit counting. What a wonderful year in my life.

Going to all of the VA homes, Hospitals, and even the Homeless Shelters have left me with a renewed spirit, and

it has inspired me to continue in every way I can to help our veterans. I have given me a chance to share my experiences with others and help them to see how many ways we can serve our veterans. We all make a difference.

I sincerely hope all of you are excited about the new year and all the things that we can accomplish. President Sarah Edwards has done a great job, and I want to personally thank her for all she has done this year.

As the July convention is fast

approaching, I hope all of you are making plans to attend. We have some great things planned for the new year, and education is one of the top priorities.

We are here to help you learn and grow or to get a better understanding of who we are and what we should be doing...all you have to do is ask! We'll be there ASAP.

For God and Country,

*Mary Barrett, 2nd Vice*

## FOR THE RECORD – DEPT. HISTORIAN



Thank you to all who have sent in their histories. Our MS Auxiliary history is important to document for posterity for the year 2012-2013. Remember to bring your binder to Convention. The Histories will be judged at the close of session on Friday evening.

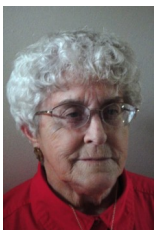
Remember to bring your binders for your unit histories to State Convention in order to be eligible for final judging. Also, please bring us your beautiful unit scrapbooks for judging. I must have all turned in by Friday afternoon as we will judge after Friday's general session is done.

Las call for your photos, newspaper articles and other memorabilia for President Sarah's **Scrapbook**--send to Audrey Porter, 250 Henry Lane, Caledonia, MS 39740. **Anyone can contribute!** My address is 2835 Nashville Ferry Road E, Columbus, MS 39702. Or, you can e-mail me at dianelawrence7@hotmail.com.

For God and Country,

*Diane Lawrence, Historian*

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER—DEPT. CHAPLAIN



Well here we are at the end of my year as your Chaplain. Where has the year gone. It has been my pleasure to act as your Chaplain, and I wish to thank all those Unit Chaplains for their reports. I wish to extend to the new Chaplain my best wishes for the coming year and please call me or e-mail me if you have any questions on what to do. I will be very happy to help you in any way I can. My phone number is 601-759-0654 and my e-mail address is pbwhitney55@att.net.

I have sent out this month one get well card and three sympathy cards. And, I have finished up my "book" for Sarah and will present it to her at State Convention in July. I wish to thank all those who have sent me items for her Book.

Again my thanks for having the privilege of serving you as your Chaplain for the year 2012-2013. Boy, what a trip it has been.

For God and Country,

*Patricia Whitney  
Dept. Chaplain*

I am not going to quote any verse this month but I am going to leave you with this blessing. This can be used with whomever you have as a Deity.

"Unto God's mercy and protection we commit ourselves. May the Lord bless us and Keep us. May the Lord make His face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us. May the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon us and grant us his peace; both this day and for evermore. Amen.

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

# STATE CONVENTION 2013

## CHECK LIST—ARE YOU READY?

- Registration fee of \$13 per person
- Bring First-Time Attendees from your Unit
- Item(s) for the Silent Auction for the Dept. Support Fund—bring something nice that will bring high bids!
- LOTS AND LOTS AND LOTS OF 2013 AND 2014 MEMBERSHIP TURN-INS!!!
- Collected hotel toiletries for the Homeless Veterans collection box
- Bags for Hard Candy and/or Chocolate, individually wrapped for the Camp Shelby Chaplain's Project
- Donate a 3 x 5 American Flag for the Legion Riders in Mississippi—yep, we'll have a box for that, too!
- Did we mention LOTS OF MEMBERSHIP TURN-INS!????
- Three door prizes per unit for meeting drawings
- Unit Senior and Junior Scrapbook for judging
- Unit Prayer Book for judging
- Unit History binder for your history (already submitted to Dept. Historian) to complete entry for judging
- Unit Pressbook for judging
- Anchor Club renewals for 2013 and new dues for 2014
- Past Department Presidents: Bring your Past Presidents Parley 2014 dues!

**LET'S GET READY TO HAVE A GREAT  
TIME!  
SEE YOU IN VICKSBURG!**

## AMERICANISM



Ladybugs, get ready for State Convention. It seems we have a lot of business to take care of this year.

Hope Unit Ladybugs flew flags on Flag Day, if not, it's still time to erect our "Red, White, and Blue" patriotic items for the "Fourth of July," in celebration of our USA's birthday.

Previously, I had warned how dangerous I was online, June's newsletter has proven true. My trivia question had a 2-part question, not 3-parts, as follows:

1. What father and son won the Medal of Honor, which is the highest military award for bravery given to any member of the US Armed Forces?
2. What was WWI soldiers called?

### July trivia question as follows:

1. When was the bald eagle chosen as the USA's National Bird?
2. What is the name of our National Anthem?

Ladybugs, get your answers to me on both months, since my brain takes more time to catch my fingers, the new deadline for both months is July 10.

For God and Country,

*Wendy Walters, Chairman*



**GIRLS STATE**

*I am using italics because I am still on a fantastic high from Girls State 2013. The wonderful, wonderful Post 1776 in Cleveland, MS, most generously donated \$29,500.00 to Girls State in scholarships for the 2013 session. This year Magnolia Girls State gave out 47, I SAID 47! SCHOLARSHIPS ranging from \$250 to \$2,500.00 each.*

The Governor's Staff on Social Media had a representative work with our cities at Girls State on developing a Facebook page for mayors here in Mississippi. The winner of the Facebook page will be announced very soon. There was also a video contest involved for the broadband campaign nationwide, and the winner was GHETTI CITY. This video will be professionally edited and used in the nationwide campaign.

I am very disappointed to say that we only signed up 234 delegates to go to Girls State. ONLY 206 showed. It might be about time to have parents guarantee these young ladies' attendance or reimburse the patron for the no-show. What do you think???? Send your suggestions to [alamshq@att.net](mailto:alamshq@att.net). I would appreciate it.

As a whole, Girls State 2013 was amazing. The delegates were great! I believe they all want to come back as junior counselors next year. As the Director for the past three years, I have seen a big difference in the young ladies from even five years ago. As three years are plenty to be the director of anything, I will be giving up that position to someone younger than me and who is very qualified. I have enjoyed Girls State and will still attend to handle the accounting and secretarial duties.

For God and Country,  
***Nancy Sanders, Director***

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED...**

*from cover*

Since this will be the absolutely last newsletter article that I write as President, I want to say a very big THANK YOU to all the members of the auxiliary. You have made my year a year of good memories. I am proud of each one of you for all that you have done to make our organization a success this year.

I want to personally thank several people for what they have done this year. Nancy Sanders, for being a great secretary for our department, Joyce Porter, for driving me around the state and being a good friend, and last but not least, Melissa and Nick Seward, who have contributed their time, talents and items for our funds this year. There are many other people that are behind the scenes that many do not know about, but they know who they are, and I want to say "thank you" to all of them.

I wish you all safe travel to the State Convention, and plan on having a good time and maybe get some new ideas that you can use this next year for your unit.

For God and Country,  
***Sarah Edwards, President***



## NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

### COMMUNITY SERVICE



We are almost at the end of our rewarding 2012-2013 year. History has been made and written accounts and The votes are in and our minds are made up. Reports have been written with awards ready to be presented. Thank you to all who have contributed to the success of the Department of Mississippi through our Community Service Committee.

Only 13 reports were received from throughout the state. Judging from those, we have been busy in our communities and are working to very diligently keep the American Legion Auxiliaries mission and goals on the minds and in the hearts of our neighbors. And for the others that did not respond via a report, the feeling is that you too completed some amazing projects that will go unrecorded and their importance not realized, except by the members that participated in them. It is a shame that so much of our history is lost. Regardless of which group you fall into, as Lynn Goodwin on Dancing with the Stars would say, "Congratulations for a Job Well Done." This sentiment is extended to each and every member who gave of their time and talents to give back to our active service men and women and their families, children and youth and of course our Veterans everywhere. Without all of our diversified and various contributions, the American Legion Auxiliary would not have existed for over 90 years. Thank you for being a valuable part of its longevity and future.

Have a safe and Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July and see you in Vicksburg for our State Convention 2013.

"Holidays to Focus Efforts" in July are: • 7/4 Independence Day

For God and Country,

*Mary Jo Abraham, Chairman*

**ATTENTION ALL DEPT. OFFICERS, INCLUDING DISTRICT PRESIDENTS—  
INSTALLATION DRESS: ROYAL BLUE DRESSES, PLEASE!**

### ATTENTION!!!!

**Anyone planning to attend the  
National Convention in Houston,  
Texas. in August!!!!**

If you need one of the gold shirts that we wear in the parade, please get in touch with Nancy. She has what we had left from last year in the office and if we don't have your size, we can order them, but we need to have enough to make an order. Remember they run small, so you will need at least one size larger than you wear normally. I think they will be \$20 again this year.

Don't forget we need at least 2 weeks to place an order, so get yours in early.

*Thanks, Lou Wilkerson*

### CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS



Our Department will consider several resolutions, including bylaws and standing rules amendments, at our annual convention in Vicksburg later this month. Many of you have received these resolutions by email and copies have been mailed to the Presidents for presentation at Unit meetings.

Please take the time to read these resolutions and prepare your Unit's delegates to vote on these important issues according to your Unit's wishes.

May God keep on blessing America,

*Diane Cantrell, Chairman*



## DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

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ALSO JOIN: ALA SOUTHERN DIVISION

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## FROM THE DEPT. SECRETARY

### Greetings from the Department!



*This office looks like a tornado hit it!!!* Not “quite” unpacked from Girls State yet, not “quite” finished getting the State Convention program together, not “quite” finished putting the agendas together, and don’t “quite” know if my head is on crooked or not! Please note the following important dates:

**August 10th - Deadline to enter 2014 Unit Officers and Unit Chairman into ALAMIS**

**August 10<sup>th</sup> – Deadline to enter 2014 “remit to” names and addresses to ALAMIS for 2014 membership.**

Hope you all read the resolutions mailed to you. Also, for those who have not pre-registered for State Convention, you need to have your Delegate roster and fee in to the Department two (2) weeks prior to State Convention to be eligible to vote in any capacity. For those units who have not paid their annual assessments, you will not be eligible either. Also, I haven’t gotten a request from ANYONE to mail labels for them to announce their candidacy for Chaplain. We’ve got to have a Chaplain! Interested anyone???

**DON'T FORGET: PRESIDENT SARAH IS HAVING A SILENT AUCTION AT STATE CONVENTION FOR HER SUPPORT FUND, AND WE WILL ALSO STILL HAVE CHANCES ON THE LAPTOP COMPUTER FOR SALE AT CONVENTION FOR THIS SAME PROJECT. BRING YOUR DOLLARS AND BRING SOMETHING TO SELL AT THE SILENT AUCTION!**

The Southern Division National Vice President (Mrs. Shirley Fraser) who is from Port Orange, Florida, will be our special guest at State Convention. Please come to meet and greet this awesome lady.

It's short and sweet this month! See you at Convention in Vicksburg!

For God and Country,

*Nancy Sanders*