

Department of
Mississippi

Magnolia

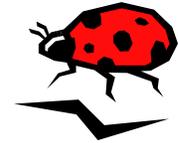


AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY

Serving veterans, their families and their communities

Monthly
Newsletter

June 2013



GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Hello Ladybugs, this will be my next to last message as your President. I want you all to know that I have enjoyed serving as your President. I have met some amazing members as I have traveled around the state. I will always cherish the memories of this year and look forward to continuing to serve our organization.

We have had many milestones, but come short on some, too. Although we did not reach all of our goals, I am proud of what you have done to help our organization and our veterans and their families.

THANK YOU again so much for allowing me the opportunity to serve WITH YOU this year. It is all of us working together to make our organization a success. I look forward to continuing to serve with you in making the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Mississippi the best it can be.

As we approach Father's Day

it is an opportunity to go to the local nursing homes and visit with those veterans who are fathers and thank them for their service. Some of them have loved ones who live far away and don't get to visit often. Just a smile and some conversation is all some of them want. At your meeting this month why not have something special for the fathers who are members. Those of you who still have your father please let him know how much you appreciate him.

Continued on Page 4

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Magnolia Girls State
June 2-7, USM
- State Convention
July 11-14, Vicksburg

1ST VICE PRESIDENT-PROGRAMS COORDINATOR



*Winging our
way for ALA...*

Congratulations to the District Presidents and Vice presidents that were elected during our Area Conferences and thank you for your commitment to our veterans and our organization.

The deadline for receipt of Department Chairmen reports, by the National Chair, is right around the

corner--I hope each of you have completed and mailed (emailed) yours, so all will know the good works that we do here in MS.

I'm planning a celebration for my four sons to show how much they mean to me. I've decided on the place, time, and date; the menu needs to be diverse, because they don't all like the same foods.

I made my grocery list and headed to the grocery store. When the cashier told me my

total, my reaction was disbelief. I needed to make cuts, but which son would not get his favorite foods? This is not a decision I wanted to make.

The reason I tell you this fabricated story is so that you might better understand what happens when we don't pay unit assessments or *keep our membership up*.

Continued on Page 3

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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PUBLICATION OF
DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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2ND VICE PRESIDENT-VA&R CHAIRMAN



The Oklahoma Tornado, and the quick response of our organization to be there to help those victims, is just one more reason for all of us to know what we all are about. We are a volunteer organization to help our Veterans and our

Community. What a wonderful blessing we have been given to be part of this Great Organization.

I am sure all of you Unit Officers and Unit Chairman are glad to have your yearly reports behind you. It is amazing how much each Unit does, and multiply that by eighty something and you are aware of just how much this Auxiliary does in Mississippi. You should all feel a

sense of pride to know that you have helped your Veterans, Communities and youth in your areas.

I hope you all attended a Memorial Service for our fallen Veterans this Memorial Day and remembered the sacrifice they have made for us.

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.

If you want to see History, check out the May issue of our magazine “American Legion Auxiliary.” Talk about scrapbook material! **Aberdeen, Daniel W. Bird Unit 26**, can cut out their pictures and article on p.48 for theirs! Way To Go! The issue is full of history for National and individual units. There is a beautiful, color spread on “Flags, Cemeteries, and Ceremonies” which is so timely with June 14th being Flag Day and so informative. Our national magazine is a treasure!

I marvel at all the accomplishments of the units!!! You are amazing! Multiply one unit’s work by the number of MS units; then by the nation’s and other countries’ Departments. You can see that each person’s work, time, and talent accomplishes so much for our veterans across the country, and actually, the world.

One more 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!** If you happen to have a picture of yourself and Sarah or any activity, send it in! It’s a nice thing to do! It will just add to her pleasure as she reminisces in years to come. She has worked hard to lead us—she will have time to rest, soon, and enjoy the memories! My home telephone # is 662.327.4141. Call if I can help. 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



This Month of May has been a quiet one. We have had only to send out 1 Sympathy card, 1 thinking of you card and 3 get well cards. I did attend the Central Districts meeting in Vicksburg and the Southern Districts meeting in Laurel. Along with my husband Bob, we have worked a number of hours at the VA Hospital in Jackson and worked at the Brandon Day function at the American Legion Post 0068 booth. All of these functions went well, and we are looking forward to next year. Of course we will be working at the VA Hospital at anytime they need help and

are in their contact list. If you live anywhere near the city of Jackson, contact the VA Hospital to inquire about giving them a hand when needed. They greatly appreciate our help. Thank you.

For this month let’s look at The Book of Revelations. This is perhaps the strongest and the most questionable book in the Bible. It is a discussion by St. John of “his visit to heaven.” It is a very powerful book in that it tells of the destruction of the earth and its people as we know it, but also states what will happen to those who believe in God and His son Jesus. It’s a great thing to read and think about. Will it ever happen?

No one knows for sure, but it really makes

you think about the future of our world in the centuries to come--whether it be this week, this year, this century or thousands of years from now. To think that this planet was formed over thousands upon thousands of centuries ago and “humans” only in the last few million year, it really makes you think. After thinking about this for a very long period of time, I really believe that sometime in the future. the writings of the Book of Revelations will come true. As for now, peace.

For God and Country,

*Patricia Whitney
Dept. Chaplain*

NEWS FROM DEPT. CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

MEMBERSHIP

Year end reports have been sent in to the chairman, now we need to continue working membership. We still have time to reach our 100% goal. You need to call your members and get them to renew their membership. Remind them of the reason of our origination, supporting our military and their families. Invite them to help with your programs and helping within your community.

I have offered my help and the help of the District Presidents and the PDP's, we are all willing to work with you anyway we can to get membership. We can still make this a great year for President Sarah by reaching 100% in membership.

For God and Country,

Joyce Porter, Chairman

AMERICANISM



Time is flying by and State Convention will be here soon. Thanks for all the Americanism reports, they are appreciated, Ladybugs have accomplished a lot of patriotic activities in the last year.

We are all in a rush for one reason or another. My only granddaughter, Christian, will marry on June 1st. Shannon and I will drive to Virginia Beach, Virginia, starting Tuesday. So, there is always a reason or two to stay in a hurry. No matter, hope everyone remembered all our VETERANS on Memorial Day. Our local "Aisle of Honor" is tomorrow and beautiful weather will have approximately 350 flags rippling in the wind. This is an awesome sight from Veterans Memorial Bypass.

The May winners are Mary Jo Abraham, Carolyn Bennett, and Lynette Criss.

The June trivia questions are:

Which father and son won the Medal of Honor?

What is the highest military award for bravery given to any member of the U.S. Armed Forces?

What were the WWI soldiers called?

For God and Country,

Wendy Walters, Chairman



Dear ALA Family,

It is with very mixed emotions that I must withdraw my name from the nomination roll for the position of Department 2nd Vice President. I have accepted a job opportunity and will be relocating out of state the middle of June.

I have so enjoyed attending the Spring Area Conferences and getting the chance to meet so many of you in person. The friendships gained through my Auxiliary membership in Mississippi are ones that will hopefully last a lifetime. I hope to remain active in Auxiliary functions after my transfer to Tennessee and truly hope to see many of you "down the road" at National functions.

For God and Country and with much love,

Amanda Havlicek

1ST VICE MESSAGE CONTINUED...

from cover

These monies are used to support our programs; Christmas Cheer, scholarships, etc. Yes, money is tight for many, but remember what our veterans gave up for us; jobs, family, and life. Our sacrifice is of fast food, cigarettes, a 12-pack of beer, an extra pair of shoes, is such a small price for us to pay in comparison.

We need you to do whatever it takes to get those renewals in. Our veterans are counting on you!

Praying for the safety of our servicemen and women.

For God and Country,

Rose Blanchard, 1st Vice President

POPPY



Memorial Day celebrations are one of the main times units promote the poppy and raise money through donations for our veterans. Hope you were successful in all your efforts.

Many units have reported to me wonderfully-diverse methods of distributing and receiving donations for the poppy and educating the public about its meaning. Thank you for your reports. They are humbling to read. Many of you “get it.”

There is an excellent article in the February issue of the American Legion Auxiliary magazine, page 39, on the “Poppy: Tips On How To Increase Your Auxiliary Unit’s Revenues.” National Chairman Melanie Taylor reports that “during 2007 and 2008, the average donation per poppy was only 45 cents.” She suggests, along with her 12 Tips, that we offer poppies year round and include our own posts/units for distribution to raise more awareness. We need to start reeducating the public! We need media help, also!

Poppies are hand made by veterans, only, under the supervision of the Auxiliary. National continues to call for concerned members of the Legion Family to learn to teach our local veterans how to make the poppy. There is a **shortage** right now. Page 16 of the current magazine (May) asks “Do You Have Extra Poppies? (from 2013).”

For God and Country,

Diane Lawrence, Chair

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE CONTINUED...

from cover

I hope all of you are getting ready for State Convention. **Next month’s issue of our newsletter will be all about the exciting things planned for our 2013 State Convention.**

We hope to have an invasion of ladybugs in Vicksburg that weekend. We will have as our guest, Shirley Fraser, Southern Division National Vice President, so please make an extra effort to be there and meet her. We will have a Silent Auction so be sure and bring as many items as you can to donate for this event.

I want to thank the Officers, Committee Chairmen, District Presidents and Vice Presidents for a job well done this year. I would like to thank Nancy Sanders for all that she has done to make my year easier. There are many behind the scenes that are too numerous to list, but I want you to know that I know who you are and I give you all a big thank you as well. A big THANK YOU goes to my unit, T.S. Patterson, Unit 69, Columbus. You are a great group of ladies and I love you all.

I wish the Officers for 2013-2014, and our membership a most successful year ahead. Thank you again for letting me serve as your President.

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 pictures are telling the story of those footprints we have made in our communities. I have received many Unit reports, Outstanding Overall Promotion of the Community Service Program entries and Senior Volunteer of the Year nominees. What wonderful contributions everyone has made and it is going to be a difficult decision for this committee to decide on the winners. Thank you one and all for taking the time to complete and mail in your reports.

Too often when we think of "Volunteers," we group all contributors together. A letter to Annie's Mailbox in the April 23, 2013 publication of the *Commercial Appeal* brought a few things to light for me regarding a specific sector of that category, our youth. Here is the short letter written by Steven A. Culbertson, President and CEO Youth Service America entitled GYSD Celebration of Young Volunteers:

"Did you know that an estimated 16 million youth participate in volunteer activities in the U.S. every year, and that by volunteering, these young people will perform better in school. These amazing kids do everything from collecting stuffed animals for children who are victims of tragedy to creating sustainable gardens in urban communities. All of these remarkable youth have a common goal: to raise awareness and solve the problems facing the world today. To celebrate their ingenuity, idealism and passion, please remind your readers that the 25th Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) will take place April 26-28, 2013. Last year, young people around the world came together and participated in 4,500 projects. Additionally, thousands of community partners in more than 106 countries brought together millions of young people to strengthen their communities through the power of youth service. For more information, your readers can visit www.GYSD.org."

Even though this specific event has passed, the youth of big cities or small rural towns are still individuals who are willing to lend a helping hand in being of service to others all year long. As parents, teachers, mentors, etc., we have the ability to encourage the future of these young minds. We have a hand in shaping and molding their values and contributions to society. In your quest for the best organization to fit your child's talents or yours, a website called the Charity Navigator, (www.charitynavigator.org) gives details of different charities and how contributions are allocated. Check out this site the next time you are asked for donations or your family is considering what, when, where and how to volunteer. Keep on keeping on!

"Holidays to Focus Efforts" in June are: • 6/14 Flag Days • 6/14 Army Day

For God and Country,

Mary Jo Abraham, Chairman

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

CAMP SHELBY CHAPLAINS FUND

Help support our local troops by donating to our fund. We provide popcorn supplies, hard candy and chocolate for the Chaplains to have out for troops who are processing in and out. Send your donation to the Department office, annotating Camp Shelby Chaplains.

Thank you!

NOT TOO LATE!!

It's not too late to turn in your ALA Leadership Correspondence Course. Send to Angela Kilcrease, Chairman, today!

NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Greetings from the Finance Committee!

As we wrap up our Auxiliary year, I just want to take the opportunity to thank everyone on the Finance Committee for the support and understanding they have given me this year. The information, knowledge, and mentorship I have gained from these ladies is invaluable to me, both in the Auxiliary and in life in general. So, thank you to Judy Baldwin, Jeanette Ghetti, Angela Kilcrease, and Joyce Porter for the support, advice, and assistance you have all provided this year. I would also like to thank, especially, President Sarah Edwards for her confidence in my ability to get the job done, and Secretary/Treasurer Nancy Sanders for always being a guiding light on my path.

As a team, this committee has accomplished our mission to produce a realistic budget, perform an audit of the books, prepare and submit the annual tax return, and provide support to our President and Secretary/Treasurer.

Finally, as we move toward State Convention, please let us end the year on a positive note and make our membership numbers! We can do it together as we have in the past. Without those membership renewals, the budget is really just a piece of paper that does not mean much. Our veterans are counting on us, let's show them what we can do!

For God and Country,

Amanda Havlicek

Finance Committee Chairman

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

PDP Mary Lyles' brother, Dr. James Ratcliff, passed away on May 13th, and a graveside service was held at Brooksville Cemetery on the 15th. Our condolences to Mary and family.

Past Department Commander Charles Scott had his heart speed up, and he went into the Region Rivers hospital off of hwy 61 in Vicksburg. They did a MRI to see what was wrong and he was told that his colon cancer had come back . WE NEED TO PRAY for Mr. Scott. Please keep his family in mind also as Ms Lilly Scott is doing ok but has had her struggles in the past . The address for get well cards : Charles Scott, 1029 Polk St., Vicksburg, MS 39180.

We still have some Cook Books left to sell.

They are \$20 each and add \$6 more for shipping if you want the book mailed to you.

These are really first class books and make great gifts for new brides, f
or high school; graduates who will be going out on their own, and
Christmas will be here before you know it.

We have a SDNVP this year, and we have Kathy coming up soon.
Remember this is what the book money will be used for, and
we will need much more.

Thanks for your help so far and please keep up the good work.

Thanks again, Lou Wilkerson



DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MISSISSIPPI

ALSO JOIN: ALA SOUTHERN DIVISION



FROM THE DEPT. SECRETARY



Greetings from the Department!

We hope all of you had a rewarding and restful Memorial Day weekend and celebrated your veterans – the reason you are a member of the ALA. We trust all of the Units received their poppies. We have about 4,000 left if anyone wants to purchase any.

Between preparing for Girls State, State Convention, the National Department Leadership Conference and this newsletter, Headquarters has been burning the candle at both ends. By the time you receive this, we will be on our way to Hattiesburg for a week at USM and Girls State. The State Convention program has gone to the printer, my head is full of new things National drilled into my weakening brain. When we return from Girls State, we will begin preparing for the new Plans of Action and 2014 membership mail-out. Notice I haven't mentioned MEMBERSHIP yet.... Well, I'm not getting enough to make a difference in a percent! This is the lowest in membership we have had since I became your Department Secretary – and we need to do something about it – NOW! Mississippi is at the bottom of the totem pole of membership nationally. Nuff said!

Enclosed in this newsletter are: Call to Convention; Delegate Form (which must be mailed back to the Department, along with the registration fee of each delegate attending two weeks prior to Convention if you plan to have a vote at Convention); resolutions which must be mailed to each unit 30 days prior to convention; and the Unit Officers & Chairmen form which I beg that you fill out immediately and return to the Department. This last form is required information requested by National Headquarters. Please do this right away. This is also your last call for submitting what address you wish your membership renewals to be mailed to.

In closing, there are still quite a few of you who have not paid their 2013 Assessments (which are mandatory). If you do not know how much your unit owes, please contact the Department and we will be happy to help with that information.

Hope to see you all at State Convention. As your Department Secretary, I would like to take this opportunity to express my love of and appreciation to Sarah Edwards, our Department President. Ms. Sarah, you have been a delight to work with and for. And to our incoming President, Rose Blanchard, I look forward to working with you. You will make a very dedicated President, and your desire to make a difference is an inspiration to all of us.

For God and Country,

Nancy Sanders