

Department of
Mississippi

Magnolia



News



AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY

Serving veterans, their families and their communities

Monthly
Newsletter

June 2014



GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



The purpose of my special project this year has been to have money available here in our state, to help our veterans, active military and their families, when and if needed. The name of this project has been changed more times than I can keep up with (and for as many reasons), but most importantly the purpose has and will remain the same. My final choice is "MS Veterans Assistance Fund." There will be some that will argue that this refers only to "a former member of the armed forces," not so: "military

veteran, i.e., a person who has served or is serving in the armed forces." According to this, the name covers both veterans and active military. In order to receive help, a request form needs to be filled out and returned to the chairman and her committee. A copy of this form should be available in the Department Office.

As I listen to what is happening at VA hospitals around the country it makes me furious. The American Legion is doing what it can to get to the bottom of this situation and they need our help. The more members in the Legion Family, the more clout we have when demanding that this treatment is unacceptable. Please, renew membership, get those rejoins and new members, not for me, but for our veterans.

Reports should be written and received by the appropriate chairmen here in the Department, the Southern Division and National. My report to National President Nancy is due June 6, and I need copies of reports. We do so much here and I want us to let everyone know about your contributions.

Penny Press, our Jr. Activities Chairman, has resigned. Her new job requires a lot of travel and she does not have the needed time for the duties of a chairman.

If your unit sent her a report for your Jr. Activities, please send another copy to me; this will be included in my report.

Congratulations to all of our graduates and to your families.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**2014 State Convention
July 18-20
Battlefield Inn, Vicksburg**

What a wonderful time for all, whether you finished high school or college, this is a major step towards your future. One of my mom's favorite sayings was, "Reach for the moon, and if you don't get there, you will land among the stars". This can be used in many areas of our lives; do the very best you can, that is all anyone can ask of another.

Bless our veterans and those presently serving our country.

For God and Country,

***Rose Blanchard
Department President***

1ST VICE PRESIDENT-PROGRAMS COORDINATOR



We are so proud of our National Commander, Dan Dillinger, for making the strong stand he has made for our Veterans.

It is because of The Legion Family Membership that he can make that stand for our Veterans. You all know what is happening in the VA facilities across this Nation.

Ladies, we are needed in a big way to step up and help our Veterans. If you have any family members or friends that not members and they are eligible, now is the time we really need their membership.

We have elected District and District Vice-Presidents. Congratulations to each of you and know that we are planning some specific training for you. Hopefully you are all excited about getting started and getting

out to the Units in your District. All of you are an important part of this Great Organization and together we all look forward to having a positive year ahead.

The Department Chairmen should have their reports turned in to National. Thank you for the good job that each of you have done. A great big Thanks to all the Units that completed your reports and

have gotten them to the proper Chairmen.

We sincerely hope that all of you are making plans to attend State Convention in order to hear first hand about all the accomplishments that our Mississippi Auxiliary has made.

For God and Country,

***Mary Barrett
1st V. P./Programs
Coordinator***

2ND VICE PRESIDENT-VA&R CHAIRMAN



Thank you--I received 27 reports, each year we are receiving more. Our ladies do not monkey around. District One sent in the most reports. The North beat the South.

Our District Presidents and Vice Presidents need to continue working together. Contact each of your units and help with any questions.

Work with other units that are close to your post. Teamwork is very important as some of our units are small.

I hope to see all of you in Vicksburg, share in the reports and get a lot of wonderful ideas.

I have enjoyed being the VA & R chairman, thanks to all of you for volunteering your time and energy. You all have made my job easy. Thank You, Thank You.

Just a reminder: Department Reps and Deputies, please e-mail or call me with any upcoming events. 228-875-8384: cell 228-365-6478: e-mail address camatina@bellsouth.net.

Thank You all for working with me these past six months, and thank you for letting me be your VA& R Chairman.

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



Special thanks to all of my ALA sisters who sent in your historian reports. Our Mississippi histories have a significant message to the progress and the future of our survival. Our history is even more significant for our veterans and their families.

Wow! How time has move right on away! Just a few months ago, I was reaching out for everybody's' reports. May 1st came, and I must say the reports arrived rapidly and in a timely manner. Thank you. Well I'm busy reading and dissecting information to complete our final report for national office by June 01. Congratulations to the units for all the work you have done over the year.

May I compliment and thank each of the area conference leaders for their excellent event planning. Each one was very well planned and the food was great. This year has been fruitful, interesting and most of all quite a learning experience.

As we move to a new chapter in our activity, i.e. our state convention in July. Don't forget to bring an item for the live auction. We are expecting to have a lot of fun and profit. Remember to bring your binders and junior/unit scrapbooks to the convention; it's later than you think. Please send your pictures to Jackie Sibley for the presidents' book.

Our goal is to leave a positive image for our younger generations. They must be able to have some positive examples to follow if we are to remain a viable and strong organization.

Did we accomplish all the goals we set? What could we have done different? What goals can we set for 2015 to improve our services for our veterans and families? We are open for suggestions. Remember no suggestion is stupid. Past your ideas on, I'm open.

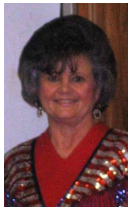
Not about Self.

For God and Country,

Eva Ford, Dept. Historian

NEWS FROM DEPT. CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

AMERICANISM



All Veterans were honored last month, but June honors our American Flag. Units should be preparing for activities for Flag Day. I plan to help another unit with their celebration for our many freedoms. This is a great time to get our children and youth involved and give out small flags within the community.

Dates to Remember: June 6 D-Day; June 14 Flag Day/US Army Founded (1775); June 15 Father's Day; June 21 Summer Begins; June 22 Pledge of Allegiance Recognized by Congress (1942)/GI Bill Signed into Law (1944); and June 25 Korean War Began (1950).

Trivia Questions; (1) When and Who was the artist of the famous painting showing Betsy Ross sewing a flag? There is doubt concerning Betsy Ross designing the first official flag, because there is no verification, written record, or proof. (2) Who sent a bill to the Continental Congress for his services for making the first U.S. Flag? The mystery of our Flag's origin continues. Did you know Our American Flag's Stars and Stripes are not to be separated for ANY reason, including retirement procedures.

For God and Country,

Wendy Walters, Chairman

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

A Gentle Breeze

By Laurie Swartzfager

As I sit here all alone admiring the view of an early sunrise
 I tilt my head back and close my eyes.
 A soft gentle breeze crosses my face
 I look around and enjoy the quietness of God's peace and the soft gentle pace
 The trees are in full bloom, the leaves ready to fall
 God's beauty of earth, I admire it all.
 As the sun comes up and begins a new day
 I sit here quietly and begin to pray.
 Dear God, I begin to say, please watch over my life and keep me safe
 Give me hope and show me faith.
 Guide my path and let me know you are near.
 Allow me to be strong and filled with love, for love conquers all fear.
 A gentle breeze crosses my path, and gives me a slight chilled
 God answers and says: I am with you still.
 I've never left you alone, or threw you aside, I am in your heart I will be your guide.
 I will show you the way to master life's difficulties, and trust your heart,
 For I am with you now and forever, I shall never part.
 A gentle breeze I feel again, I know my prayers are answered, God has heard my plea.
 He has pointed this out for me to see.
 Life has many surprises each and every day. We cannot live on regrets and sorrow.
 Once again I feel a gentle breeze which means God is saying:
 My child there is a tomorrow:
 The sun will shine once again, the birds will continue to sing.
 Memories will last forever, and enjoy life a new today, and all that it may bring.



The power of prayer!!!

What more can one say, God bless you and keep you safe, for you will always be in my heart.

For God and Country,

Jackie Baughman, Dept. Chaplain

NEWS FROM DEPT. CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS



At our 2014 Department of Mississippi Convention in Vicksburg, two resolutions will be presented proposing (1) an amendment to remove the paragraph dealing with the composition of some Standing Committees from the Bylaws and (2) to move that requirement out of the Bylaws and create a new Standing Rule describing the composition of Standing Committees. The two Resolutions are included in this newsletter. Please review these proposed amendments and prepare your delegates to vote your Unit's opinion on the issue when brought before the convention.

Please select your Unit's delegates and alternates to convention and pay their registration fee no later than two weeks prior to convention in accordance with Department Constitution, Article VI, Section 2. You must send the list of your delegates and alternates and the check for their registration to the Department Secretary before the deadline in order to vote at convention.

May God keep on blessing America,

Diane Cantrell, Chairman

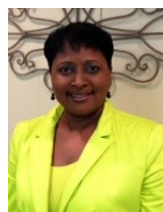
A Note of Thanks!

Thank you very much for the prayers for my recent surgery. This knee is a little different, and I'm having some problems. Just keep me in your prayers, and I'll stay in touch.

If you want to do something special for me, go out and get a membership renewal. That would feel me with joy. Thanks in advance!

Low Wilkerson, PDP

PUBLIC RELATIONS



Greetings to everyone!

Reports! Reports! Reports! The clock is ticking. It's not too late! If you have not submitted your Unit's report, please send them as soon as possible. Public Relations involve the planned promotion of the goods and services of the American Legion Auxiliary. Public Relations (PR) will promote a positive image of our organization. Communication may be utilized in various ways such as flyers, community calendars, t-shirts, local newspaper, TV, emails, Facebook, and billboards.

Also, it is good to know that the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary are being advertised. The American Auxiliary has good news to share. Ladies, keep up the good works with sharing and spreading the news about the American Legion Auxiliary. I hope that everyone is having an outstanding year with their Unit's activities. Keep promoting our mission and projects of the Auxiliary through Public Relations!

Ladies remember to please send your local newspaper articles, flyers, brochures, running ads, and community calendars for the Department Public Relations booklet. We Don't Monkey Around!

For God and Country,

Again thank you,

Charlotte Williams, Chairman

M.E.M.B.E.R.S.H.I.P.

PLEASE READ THIS!



My dear Department of Mississippi! Time is running out! Where is our 100% Plus for the Department???

Ladies, I just can't sugar-coat this anymore. We are currently below 4,000 members—say it ain't so?? According to a recent renewal report from National, we are down 675 members—these are members we had two years ago but don't have today. Where are they? Why have we let them slip through our collective fingers?

Also, bear in mind that when we don't make membership goals, our unit and department budgets falter. We don't have the revenue from dues to support our many wonderful programs for our veterans, active duty, children and youth and their families.

And, with our numbers down so drastically, we have lost potential volunteers to help us carry out our many programs. I've heard many of you say how tired you are—do you realize how much 675 members can do to help us? Ladies, this is serious business, and we really must put out a last-ditch effort to renew members we still have on the books. I need your help! No one person can do this alone. I've asked Lou Wilkerson to help me in calling units the next couple of weeks as I've got a full traveling schedule ahead. Thanks, Lou! District Presidents, Dept. Officers and other PDPs, can you help make calls, too—especially in your own neck of the woods?

For God and Country,

Angela Kilcrease, Chairman

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF MISSISSIPPI'S

100 PERCENT (PLUS!) UNITS!

Corinth 6 (101.29%) Aberdeen 26 (100.71%) Corinth 207 (115.39%) Fulton 51 (129.55%)
 Baldwyn 130 (108.83%) Amory 239 (100%) New Albany 72 (104.66%) Tishomingo 144 (103.03%)
 Nesbit 1990 (118.19%) Cleveland 165 (101.93%) Indianola 206 (100%) Mound Bayou 220 (102.13%)
 Grenada 35 (180%) Kosciusko 44 (114.76%) Ackerman 82 (104.77%) *Carthage 218 (108.34%)
 Vicksburg 3 (106.6%) Yazoo City 7 (109.09%) Vicksburg 213 (111.36%) Jackson 91 (100%)
 Yazoo City 201 (108.78%) Jackson 214 (127.28%) Tylertown 56 (116.5%) Natchez 228 (109.68%)
 Meadville (106.90%) Laurel 11 (118.52%) Bay Springs 71 (133.34%) Mendenhall 74 (154.55%)
 Laurel 210 (100%) Ocean Springs (103.23%) Lucedale 53 (141.67%) Hattiesburg 225 (103.45%)
 Waveland 77 (101.17%) Bay St. Louis (104.33%) Lakeshore 152 (114.29%) Gautier-Vancleave (102.84%)
 *Petal 146 (104.55%) D'Iberville 2002 (156.25%) *Headquarters 106

As of 5/29/2014 report—38 GOAL PLUS UNITS TO DATE OUT OF 83 UNITS

90% Plus UNITS!

Tupelo 49 Calhoun City 50 Horn Lake 134 Greenwood 29 Greenwood 200
 Starkville 13 Winona 52 Columbus 69 Louisville 62 Canton 67 McComb 14
 Wesson 79 Tylertown 120 Hattiesburg 24 Picayune 73

DISTRICTS WHO HAVE REACHED 90% PLUS

**District 8: 111.97% District 1: *100.73% District 7: 99.32%
District 4: 99.02% District 9: 93.28%**



DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

War Memorial Building
P. O. Box 1382
Jackson, MS 39212

Phone: 601.353.3681
E-mail: ALAMSHQ@att.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

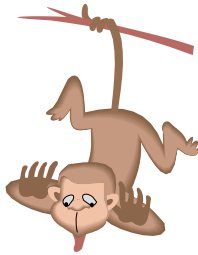
WWW.MISSALA.COM

JOIN OUR GROUP ON FACEBOOK



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MISSISSIPPI

ALSO JOIN: ALA SOUTHERN DIVISION



**Don't Monkey
Around!**

FROM THE DEPT. SECRETARY



As most of you know, this is a very, very busy time for the Department staff (me) with Girls State, having the largest group of delegates this year than we have had in six or so years. Director Brooke Cullen is very excited and extends her appreciation to all of you units who participated in Girls State this year. We leave for the University of Southern Mississippi Friday, May 30. **This office will be closed until Monday, June 9.**

However, please do not stop sending in membership. I am leaving the Post Office key with my husband, who will check mail daily for membership and call it in to me. I will have the Department laptop with me to check the emailed membership. Keep it coming!

As State Convention is soon upon us, and there will be resolutions to vote on, your unit will need to send in your delegate strength and pre-convention registration fees two weeks prior to Convention. The Official Delegate Registration form **WILL BE MAILED TO EACH UNIT PRESIDENT BY JUNE 15. PLEASE DO NOT FORGET IT. No pre-registration – no vote!**

Enclosed is the Officers/Chairmen form for each unit to report your 2014-2015 unit officers and chairmen. **This is very important.** National Headquarters requests this information by the end of July. In that Mississippi elects officers in June and Unit chairmen shortly thereafter, it would be appreciated if you would get it to the Department ASAP.

REMINDER: If your Unit plans to change your dues rates, or if you have address changes, etc., of any of your members, the Membership Program will LOCK IN all amounts and addresses at midnight, June 20 – no exceptions. If you want to make any changes that will affect the 2015 membership cards YOU MUST DO IT NOW! Everyone please read this and don't forget. Any changes made after June 20 will cost each unit \$30 per change.

Hope to see you all at State Convention!

For God and Country I remain,

Nancy Sanders, Dept. Secretary/Treasurer

**BEST WISHES
TO OUR 2014 MAGNOLIA GIRLS STATE
DELEGATES AND STAFF!
HAVE SUCCESSFUL SESSION!**