

Department of
Mississippi

Magnolia



AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY

Serving veterans, their families and their communities

Monthly
Newsletter

March 2013



GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Greetings Ladybugs, I hope that you all had a great time at Mid-Winter and are all back at work with the programs. I was so glad to see so many units represented at Mid-Winter Conference. Sometimes we just don't think that going to Mid-Winter is as important as going to State Convention, but there is a lot of fun, and we get to see and hear what the units

have been doing so far this year. There is a chance that you just might get a new idea for your unit.

If you missed the Mid-Winter Conference, please try to come to the Area Conference in your area. It is very important that each unit has a member present to give the unit report. We need to know what you have been doing so that those who need the reports will have them to make their reports.

As most of you know, Merita Quinn has resigned as Department Historian. I have appointed Diane Lawrence from T.S.

Patterson Unit 69, Columbus, to complete the year as Department Historian. I know she is a very capable person and will do a great job.

We have been getting membership in very slowly. We are now over the 70% mark, but that is well below what we are capable of doing. Please get those renewals and new members in to Nancy as soon as you get them. Do not hold them till the area conferences. We need them NOW.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Districts 2 and 3 Workshop
March 9, Greenwood
- District 6 Workshop
Part II, March 16,
Vicksburg
- District 8 Workshop,
March 23, Laurel
- Northern Area Conference
April 13, TBA
- Central Area Conference
April 20, Vicksburg
- Southern Area Conference
May 11, Laurel
- Magnolia Girls State
June 2-7, USM

1ST VICE PRESIDENT-PROGRAMS COORDINATOR



*Winging our
way for ALA....*

Time is almost here for Year-End Reports. All Unit Chairmen should review their Plans of Action for report forms, and when and where to send them. This information is needed when President Sarah writes her report for National. This information is used by our National Officers for reports to Congress, etc., to maintain services for our

Veterans and active military. If you have questions, contact your Department Chairman, our Department Secretary (Miss Nancy) or me.

In the POAs you will find required information for Woman of the Year, Community Service Volunteer of the Year, Unit of the Year, and other awards. Follow directions for these submissions.

Please remember: It is **not** mandatory to use the PODs.

We want reports from all of you---Mississippi does great work and we want to hear about it.

Dates for Spring Area Conferences have been announced. Unit Presidents should have written reports (3 copies, please), summarizing their year, ready for these Conferences and be prepared to give an oral presentation to members.

Continued on Page 4

2012-2013 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

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

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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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2ND VICE PRESIDENT-VA&R CHAIRMAN



It has been another great month to get to know more Veterans and be able to let them know that we appreciate them and their service to all of us. I and Odell Press, District I President, was very blessed to get to accompany Diane Belue, Helen Belue, Susie Spruill and her granddaughter Kaylee, to the Kosciusko VA Home. Diane is the President of Aberdeen Unit 26 and the other ladies are members there and Kaylee is a Junior member.

They had plans to go to Kosciusko to give several nice gifts to the Veterans and pass out Valentines to each Veteran. All of the Valentines had been

made by the school children from the Aberdeen schools. We phoned Carolyn Bermond, Kosciusko Rep, and she and Sara Davis agreed to give all of us a tour of the VA Home. A very good time was enjoyed by all, Kaylee handed the Valentines out to the veterans and needless to say they all enjoyed seeing that beautiful little girl being so sweet and thanking them for their service.

Carolyn and Sara also had lunch with us (Kaylee picked McDonalds). It was a pleasure to get to meet all the Veterans and some of the Staff at the VA Home. My special thanks to all the Auxiliary ladies that were there and extended their appreciation to our Veterans.

That is just one example of what I am getting to experience as V A & R

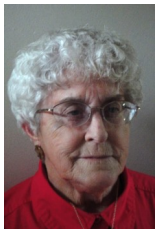
Chairman, everywhere I go I get to see all the Mississippi Auxiliary members working for our Veterans. From the smallest to the largest Units, all are helping our Veterans and I am also seeing the Units are getting our youth more involved.

Keep up the great work and please, I hope all of you are making plans to attend the Area Conference meetings and preparing to attend the State Conference in July. Every time you attend these meetings, you learn so much and you realize how great this Mississippi Auxiliary really is.

For God and Country,

Mary Barrett, 2nd Vice

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER—DEPT. CHAPLAIN



During the last month, I have sent out three sympathy cards to those families that lost a loved one. I also sent out one get well card.

As the year is starting to close down, I need the reports from the Units that have not sent them in. Please do so as soon as possible. Thank you. I am also looking for information for the President's Prayerbook. So please if you have any information, prayers and pictures, etc., please get them me as soon as possible.

Of course we attended the Mid-Winter Conference in Natchez and had a great time meeting old friends and making new ones, and we are looking forward to the Convention in the summer. We hope to see many of you again at the Convention.

Now Spring is just around the corner, and the Lenten season is upon us. As

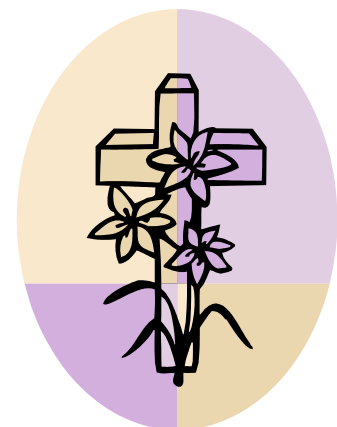
most of you know this is the solemn part of the Christian year and ends with the resurrection of Jesus at Easter. I quote from. St. Matthew; chapter 28, verses 1 through 6.

"In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And behold there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came down and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lighting and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that you seek Jesus which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."

I wish to say to all, please follow your hearts and have a blessed Easter and until next month may the Lord bless you and give you His peace both now and forever more. Peace.

For God and Country,

*Patricia Whitney
Dept. Chaplain*



NEWS FROM DEPT. CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

MEMBERSHIP

Just returned from great Mid-Winter It's that time again for our monthly newsletter and for me to beg for membership. Our membership is the backbone of our organization, and we have to keep it up. Our next Milestone is May 17th, which is Armed Forces Day. It's the 85% Milestone.

I know how hard it is to get members to renew but we need to keep our members and recruit new ones.

I would like to challenge the District Presidents to see who will reach their district 100% first.

Let's see which one of you will win.

Congratulations to the Units who have reached their goal it shows what hard work can do. There are Leadership Workshops coming up and that would be a great time to bring in membership.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the Leadership Workshops and receiving lots of membership turn in.

Please don't stop now keep getting those renewals and new members.

For God and Country,

Joyce Porter, Chairman

AMERICANISM



I certainly missed everyone at Mid-Winter and at the National Commander's luncheon at Winona, but my plans are to attend Spring Conference. I am requesting all Unit Presidents who receive a newsletter through the mail and over the internet, too, please share a copy with the Unit Chairman.

I will start trivia questions concerning Americanism/Patriotism. First, second, and third answeres each month with the correct answers, will be honored with a gift at State Convention. The Americanism Chairman with the most correct answers will be the winner. Considering there are 81 units within the State of Mississippi, I expect alot of participants. My address is 3609 AR #2237, Ethel, MS 39067, phone number 662-674-5708, and email at flowersandpups@aol.com. I will start this next month, because I am not at home presently.

I am very appreciative of the reports I received for Mid-Winter. Some reports were exceptional, and different projects were started within the Americanism Program Pod.

The Southern Division Americanism Chairman changed mid-year, she is Cookie Waddell and a very bubbly personality, I look forward to working with her in the next months. Each Unit should record any accomplishments at that time, it's easier to record as they occur, than try to do "total recall" as I have learned lately.

Finally, I wanted to let everyone know, I feel much better and moving around, just not ready for the "marathon."

For God and Country,

Wendy Walters, Chairman

Wanted: Bikers

Heidelberg Unit 1997 will have their 3rd annual Bike Show at the Collins Veterans Nursing Home on April 20, 2013, from 10-11a.m. Trophies will be given for the top three bikes, along with door prizes, and a meal of hot dog, chips, and drink will be provided for entries.

The judging will be done by Veterans and general public. Hope to see you there.

Jackie Baughman, Collins Rep

PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT—THE ANCHOR CLUB

This year, Department President Sarah Edwards has chosen The Anchor Club as her special project. Now, more than ever as membership as decreased and our economy is weaker, our Department needs extra support to meet financial obligations and to better serve our veterans and their families.

Your commitment, by contributing to this department development fund, will greatly help the Auxiliary to sustain its operations and be more efficient in serving our units. The Anchor Club fund is very important to our annual operating budget this year, and your membership will help insure the security of our beloved Auxiliary in Mississippi.

Membership in THE ANCHOR CLUB is open to all individuals, Units, and Posts by donating \$50 or more. **Charter members**, please send in your dues to continue your membership and your support to the department.

Checks should be sent to the Department Secretary, American Legion Auxiliary, P. O. Box 1382, Jackson, MS 39212 and annotated as *Anchor Club 2013*.

We thank you for your continue support for this project.

Janice Crosby, Anchor Club Chairman
Mary Smith-Ried, Special Project Chairman
Department Finiece Committee

MAGNOLIA GIRLS STATE!

We are up and running! All of the 2013 Girls State information, applications, scholarship applications, etc. are now on our Department website (www.missala.com). We are going electronic in 2013 (except for those who do not dabble on computers). Enclosed in this newsletter is information you will need to know if your unit will be sponsoring delegates to Girls State. The process is very simple and the delegate does all the work. All you will have to do is choose your delegates, send the Department a list of your delegates and a check for \$275 per delegate. We will not need the applications. You may keep them for your records. After your delegates are chosen, they will go on line and register on their own. The Department will give you the web address for the delegates to register when you send us your approved list.

There will also be available an application for individuals to apply on our website. These individuals will be sending their applications to the Department with their payments. If these individual delegates are in your unit area, we will be calling to see if they can participate in your unit's orientation. All of the packet information will be included on our website except for the booklets and schedules. Those will be given to the delegates when they come to Girls State. New for 2013 will be the ability to pay for the 2013 Girls State session on line. This information will soon be available on our website. Stay tuned!

Girls State 2013 will be at the University of Southern Mississippi. And yes, the campus will be ready for us for our June 2-7, 2013, session. You are not misreading the dates. The delegates will arrive in Hattiesburg at USM on **Sunday, June 2 at 1:00 p.m.**

Another new addition this year will be the American Legion/Auxiliary night dinner. USM will be hosting dinner for the visitors on Legion/Auxiliary night (which will be Thursday, June 6). We will have more information on this next month.

Please contact your local high schools and give the counselors our website on The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State. Encourage them to work with you in obtaining their brightest graduating 11th grade girls who are interested in our government and election process. Please contact them soon before they make plans to attend another summer function. You will need to tell the schools that the Girls State scholarship numbers have doubled this year. USM will be giving \$1,000 scholarships to each recipient of the 12 City's Outstanding Citizens, with an extra \$500 scholarship going to the overall outstanding citizen.

We know and are prepared to answer your questions should you have any. Please call Nancy Sanders, Girls State Director, at the Department Headquarters (601-353-3681) or on my cell phone (601-668-3727). This is one of the Auxiliary's largest programs. Please re-introduce yourself to **Magnolia Girls State**. If your unit prefers the packets mailed to your delegates or your unit, please let us know.

SEE YOU AT GIRLS STATE!!!

Nancy Sanders, Director

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED...

from cover

I had the pleasure to travel with the Department Commander and several Department Officers when National Commander Jim Koutz came to Mississippi. I would like to thank those Posts and Units who hosted the National Commander. You all did a fantastic job!

Our National President will be visiting our state soon. The plans have not been finalized, but as soon as they are we will let you all know.

Keep working on our programs for the veterans and their families and I look forward to seeing many of you at the area conferences.

For God and Country,

Sarah Edwards, President

1ST VICE MESSAGE CONTINUED...

from cover

We are all watching our pennies, because we are unsure about tomorrow, but we need to get our dues paid and sign up new members. Our organization is dedicated to serving our Veterans and we need you to help us continue this endeavor.

I'm not sure about you, but being 47th out of 52 Departments, is not acceptable. We still have some time, so let's get those phone lines jumping; make calls, send letters, emails, whatever it takes to get our membership up where it belongs.

Prayers go out to the families that have lost loved ones recently and for the safety of our service men and women serving our country.

For God and Country,

Rose Blanchard, 1st Vice President

NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

LEADERSHIP

VALUE OF LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Good Leadership brings vitality and respect to you and to your organization, always remembering that YOU ARE the organization in the eyes of the public; thus you should be humble, use self-discipline, and reflect honesty in all of your endeavors.

The value of Leadership Training is to have greater coordination—TO HAVE MORE DONE IN LESS TIME.

The Leadership Program in the American Legion Auxiliary today calls for us to learn first and then teach our members the following:

- The history and traditions of our organization
- The purposes and principles as outlined in the Preamble
- Our responsibility to the veteran, his family and to the community

An American Legion Auxiliary leader needs these qualifications:

- Not be afraid to become involved. Listen with an OPEN MIND.
- Have the initiative to start things and keep them alive.
- Be willing to work hard.
- Have an understanding of human behavior.
- Build bridges and destroy barriers, discover what unites us rather than what divides us.

For God and Country,

Angela Kilcrease, Chairman



**See you at the
District Workshops!**

Dear Friends,

I am excited to tell you that I received a National chairmanship appointment from President-elect Nancy Brown Park for the upcoming year 2013-2014.

I received the National Constitution and Bylaws chairmanship. I am always so proud and honored to tell everyone I see that I represent the Department of Mississippi.

I also will be a member of the National Long Range Strategic Planning committee working on a 5-year plan for the national organization.

Thank you all for your support and kindnesses.

Kathy Dungan



S. O. S. !!

The Dept. of Mississippi has proudly donated popcorn supplies and hard candy to the Chaplains at Camp Shelby for our troops.

They use these supplies to give a little comfort to the troops who are in-processing or out-processing from active duty.

Also, from time to time, the Red Cross staff at Camp Shelby will call us to assist a soldier who is having difficulties. This past month, the Department paid the electric bill for a soldier who was in great need.

Our funds are VERY low, and we need your help to continue this valuable service for our troops.

Please ask your unit to donate and send a contribution to the Dept. Office.

Be sure to indicate on your check "Camp Shelby Project" for proper credit and report your donations on your National Security Year-end Report!

THANK YOU!!

NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

COMMUNITY SERVICE



By the time this newsletter is published, we will have stepped into March and its unpredictable weather. Evidence of spring has already arrived and we look forward to celebrating Easter Sunday on March 31st. We have a few weeks to finalize our Leadership and Area Conferences, the Americanism Essay and Poppy Poster Contests in our local schools and various other events throughout the state before our reporting year will officially come to an end.

Next month, in April, we will be putting the finishing touches on our entire end of the year reports as they will be due by May 1, 2013 to the individual Department Committee Chairmen. With your input I am to write a summary of our Department's Community Service Year, explaining each project. National is asking about the programs/projects that your Unit and Volunteers have been a-part of this year. This is where I am really going to need your help. Without your participation, I can only write about my home Unit 28 in Clarksdale and its contributions. This does not give an accurate picture of Mississippi's success and I want to make sure everyone's Unit activities are included. My report is due to our Southern Division Chairman by May 1st, so please send me your reports by April 15th. Do not forget to include Community-Wide Service Projects, National Days of Service, Veteran Homelessness Prevention and Response, Job Fairs and Career Mentoring, and other activities as outlined in our Plans of Action. We still have two months to begin, complete a work in progress or finalize our projects. I know that there are many amazing stories that each of you have to tell about your hard work, so make sure that it will be included in the final summary of this year's accomplishments.

A citation will be presented to a Unit in each Division with the most outstanding overall promotion of the Community Service Program during the 2012-2013 administrative year. Complete details are noted in the Plans of Action. Entries must be sent to me and postmarked by May 1, 2013 to be considered. The overall winning entry will be forwarded by June 1, 2013 to the Divisional Community Service Chairman for National competition.

Do not forget your nominations for the Senior and Junior Volunteer of the Year Award. All entries must be postmarked and received by me by May 1, 2013 to qualify. Please refer to your Plans of Action for complete details and applications. The winning entry, in each category, will be sent to National by June 1, 2013 for consideration.

If you need my mailing address or have any questions, my contact information is: 1015 Miller Drive, Clarksdale, MS 38614....Telephone/Fax: 662-624-5225...Email: cooperyergerala28@bellsouth.net.

Let's make our Department of Mississippi Community Service Program #1 on the National level. With all of us working together, we can do it!!!

Holidays to Focus Efforts in March are: • American Legion Birthday month, 3/15 suggested observation date • 3/4 Hug a GI Day • 3/23 Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day

Mary Jo Abraham, Chairman

CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Well another month has come and almost gone, and at the beginning I said I would give you a new project to work on--this month it will be "Child Health."

The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary believes every child should have access to adequate healthcare. We have partnered with several organizations that share the same thoughts. Our effort to increase the quality of life for children is making a difference in the lives of millions of children every year.

Some units have started collecting aluminum pop tabs to support the Ronald McDonald Houses. This program helps with funds to provide housing for financially challenged families with seriously ill or injured children, who must undergo medical treatment at a Children's Hospital away from home.

For God and Country,

Rosemary Merriman, Chairman



DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MISSISSIPPI

ALSO JOIN: ALA SOUTHERN DIVISION



FROM THE DEPT. SECRETARY



Greetings from the Department!

There have not been enough days in February! We made our membership goal (Yea!), and are working furiously to reach our next goal of 85%. I'm like the Cookie Monster. I need cookies!!! (membership). As you all have received raffle tickets for the lap-top computer for the Department Support Fund, we are hoping you are not putting them away. We want you to sell them, get more from the Department, and sell them!!!

The poppies have been ordered. Hope all of you sent your request to the Department. For those of you who *forgot*, we will fill the orders first-come-first-serve. The cost of the poppies goes up if we have to order twice. While we are on the "*forgetting*" paragraph, we hope you remembered to file your 990 ecard tax reports to the IRS.

We know that you are anticipating the PUFL checks to be mailed any day. We at headquarters are anticipating them also. The distribution list is not available yet from National. As soon as we receive the list, the unit checks for your PUFL members will be mailed to you. Also, please remember that the deadline for correcting continuous years in membership is April 1. We can make no more corrections for 2013 after that date. The deadline to correct your unit dues amount is also April 1. National will be sending the membership renewals to print after that date. **This is important! You will need to contact the Department by April 1 if your unit plans to change its membership dues for the 2013-2014 year!**

In closing, we take this opportunity to remind those who wish to run for Department office for 2013-2014, make sure your announcements are mailed and be prepared to announce your candidacy at the Spring Conferences. The Department will furnish you labels and addressees. Also remember the voting procedure for elections at Spring Conferences and get your membership in. You may just be one of those units who missed having an extra delegate vote by one renewal! If you have not paid your 2013 membership dues, you are no longer a member in good standing and cannot vote! **PLEASE RENEW NOW!!!**

Always at your service and the service of our veterans.

Nancy Sanders

HELP!

While at Mid-Winter Conference in January, we talked about a new car for the Department. I mailed letters to dealerships on the coast and we have not heard anything. Some of you told me that you had some contact-names. If you would, please send them to me.

Our department van is a 2006, with over 100,000 miles, so we would like to take care of this before a problem comes up, and we need to spend a lot of money on repairs. Or need to replace it and not be able to afford it.

If anyone can help with this, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your help.

Rose Blanchard, Dept. 1st Vice President