

Department of  
Mississippi

Magnolia



AMERICAN LEGION  
AUXILIARY

*Serving veterans, their families and their communities*

Monthly  
Newsletter

March 2016



## GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



I hope everyone had a great Valentine's Day and remembered our veterans, because they are our special Valentines. The VA hospitals are having Creative Arts competitions at several locations, so please check with them and see if they need volunteers. This will help us with our **National** Creative Arts Festival that will be at the Jackson VA in October—the more we learn, the more knowledge we will have.

I enjoyed traveling with our National Commander, Dale Barnett, on his tour of Mississippi. The Posts did a wonderful job of making our National Commander welcome. We thank all of you who took the time to be a part of this great occasion.

We are looking forward to the visit by our National President, Sharon Conatser, April 25-27. We are close to finalizing our plans for her visit, and I feel confident that she will enjoy her stay with us, because we will show her our S O U T H E R N HOSPITALITY.

Be sure to check your Plans of Action and follow the directions about when your

year-end reports are due and get in as many reports as possible for National recognition.

All of our Units work hard around our great state of Mississippi, so do not miss out on being recognized for what your Unit has accomplished.

Area conferences will be in April (SAC 9<sup>th</sup>; NAC 16<sup>th</sup>; SAC 23<sup>rd</sup>), and we looking forward to seeing all of you there.

Thank you for all that you do for our American Legion Auxiliary.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Spring Central Area  
Conference, April 9,  
Columbus Post 69

Spring Northern Area  
Conference, April 16,  
Aberdeen Post 26

Spring Southern Area  
Conference, April 23,  
Gautier-Vancleave Post 1992

National President's Visit, April  
25-27 on Gulf Coast

Keep a SMILE on your face and work on our MEMBERSHIP so our organization will continue to grow.

For God and Country,

*Anita McAllister*  
Department President

## 1ST VICE PRESIDENT-PROGRAMS COORDINATOR



This is a sure warning that spring is on its way.

Now is the time to get out and visit new neighbors—you may just find a new member in the

The winter season is gradually moving out, while the green is getting greener.

neighborhood. It is important that we increase our membership in order to increase our strength as an organization.

Keep in mind, together we stand and divided we fall.

Ladies, now is the time to start thinking about election of officers and what you want to do to help make our program stronger.

I am asking each of you if you believe you can help make a difference, feel free to call me (601-638-3086). It's never too late to voice your opinion.

Remember we are one family with one goal, i.e. our veterans.

We all can do something and everyone has ideas and commitments you haven't used yet.

I hope to be seeing each of you during the spring sessions.

God bless each of you and God bless America.

*Eva Ford, 1st Vice*



## 2ND VICE PRESIDENT-VA&R CHAIRMAN



My, how the time has flown, we have about 4 months left in this year.

I hope everyone is getting geared up for our Spring meetings. I hope to see you at each one.

This is a great opportunity for us to share our ideas on how we can im-

prove our units, department, and all the activities we do for our Veterans.

I had the opportunity to help one of our Auxiliary members set up the foyer at the Jackson VA Hospital for Valentine's Day. What a joy to talk with patients as they came by.

Just a few minutes of your time means the world to some of these Veterans. Please visit one of our homes/hospitals.

The year-end report is due to me by

1 May 2016. Please send those reports in so I can share what you do with National.

Don't be bashful, you deserve the praises for what you do for our Veterans.

[chiefangie2013@gmail.com](mailto:chiefangie2013@gmail.com) 220 SCR 18-5,  
Bay Springs, MS 39422 OR 956 CR 17, Bay  
Springs, MS 39422

*Angie Baughman*  
*2nd Vice President*



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER – DEPT. CHAPLAIN



Greetings and Salutations! Love is caring, helping someone who is in need and, doing everything to protect and look after him. With that said, I would like begin by hoping that everyone had a great Valentine's Day! It takes all of us to achieve our goals for the American Legion Auxiliary to be successful. We all have to place forward an effort in this great organization because "Teamwork Makes the Dream Work." It takes everyone to work together to preserve harmony and peace in everything that we do.

I am looking forward to receiving more items for the President's Prayer Booklet. Please send prayers, poems, articles or just a card with your Unit's name, Unit's number and your name on it. It would mean a great deal to me and to you, as well. It would be pleasing to receive something from all of the Units. In addition, please send a list of your deceased members by May 1, 2016. I would like for everyone to be included at the Memorial at State Convention.

*Heavenly Father, We thank you for your guidance in the American Legion Auxiliary. I ask that you guide us in all that we do and let all we do praise you. Please strengthen and comfort our members and their family members are sick, in bereavement or just need a touch from. To "You" be all the glory, honor and praise. In your name we pray. Amen.*

Thank you for this opportunity to serve as your Chaplain. Remember: "One Team, One Goal" and "Teamwork Makes the Dream Work. "

For God and Country,

*Charlotte Williams, Chaplain*



## DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN—FOR THE RECORD



In March, we celebrate the birthday of the American Legion. Our Units take this time to acknowledge and recognize members' accomplishments and years of service.

I am looking forward to getting reports from you all in order to prepare the Department History for submission to National. Please, Ladies, send me your information. I know this sounds like a broken record, but if you don't send the information, I don't have it to submit.

There are some great things being done for our Veterans, and I am excited to find out what you are doing. Along with the Legion Birthday, we also celebrate St. Patrick's Day this month.

Flying High for God and Country,

*Tina Hurst, Historian*



## EDUCATION



I just got my first application for the National President's Scholarship from Fulton. I know all of you are working on your scholarships. Please take a minute and look at your Plan of Action and remember, we have Girls State, Boys State and the Oratorical Program.

We have so much to offer but we must get the word out there. The more people we get involved will certainly help our membership because if we get the children involved that means the parents will get involved.

If I can be of any assistance please contact me, if I don't have the answer I'm sure I can get it from National.

For GOD and Country,

*June Laws, Chairman*



## GIRLS STATE



***Have YOU checked your Girls State Application Deadlines Lately? It's just around the corner!***

Unit instructions for processing your delegates to the Department are spelled out on the 2nd page of the application packet. Please follow those instructions, particularly the deadline dates. We must, as Units, follow these dates as we've got to know who is coming earlier than in previous years (waiting to the last minute is a nightmare), AND the delegates need more time, after acceptance, to prepare to attend, especially if they will be campaigning!!

Also, we encouraged Units to unite as a district for Orientation...a team from the Girls State Committee or others who are seasoned staff of the program, will be happy to come to your District and put on the orientation. Ask a Unit who typically holds orientation yearly to serve as host unit!

Work together as a District, perhaps through your District President, and let's prepare these young ladies for an experience of a lifetime! Call me! (On second thought, email me as I can't always find my phone!)

Ladies, please work this program and find us some really good delegates...let's give this program an opportunity to grow and be of great service to our young ladies in this state. We need YOU to help us be a success. Many thanks in advance!

For God and Country,

*Angela Kilcrease, Chairman/Director*



## CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Hello everyone. Well, Spring is in the air, and it's time to get busy again. Easter comes early this year. It is March 27th, so everyone should be getting ready to do Easter Egg Hunts and parties for Children and Youth.

Remember to record everything you do for C&Y, so you can include it in your unit's year-end report that is due to me by May 1.

I would also like to mention one thing that we can do. We need to remember that there are many C&Y that either have a parent or parents that are deployed right now. We need to hand out a HERO Bear to them and let them know they are HEROES also. Thanks for all you do for our children and youth. After all they are our future leaders.

Happy Easter and Spring. May God Bless America!

For God and Country,

*Ruth Benson, Chairman*



## CAVALCADE OF MEMORIES



March is National Women's History Month. This year's theme is "Working to form a more perfect union: Honoring women in Public Service and Government." If the Auxiliary doesn't fit in the definition of public service, I certainly don't know what does. I am sure we all have at least one woman we could honor during March, or perhaps a number of them.

For units that have Junior members, perhaps they could become involved whether it's to plan the celebration or write a report about a longtime member. Maybe you could use this time to promote the Members Remember project. Perhaps this can become a yearly celebration for the Auxiliary!

For God and Country,

*Dee Starkey, Chairman*



## KATHY DUNGAN STEERING COMMITTEE



We just got back from Washington, DC, and Kathy's reception was fantastic. What an experience, the love and support she was given was awesome. We want to thank Bob Gosa NEC, Steve Sweet Alt NEC and Commander Robert Endt for their support in Kathy's receiving Line.

I fail to mention in last month's newsletter that the beautiful butterfly towels that was donated by Glenda Wheelis was won by Johnny Bracey, and he donated them back. Thanks Johnny. WE would like to thank Post 1776 for their \$5,000 donation. Thank you to all the Legionnaires and Sons of the Legion for your support. We couldn't do it without you!

We had our second cash bash drawer and the winners were Joe Kersh \$200, Patsy Huskey \$300 and John Tardy \$500. Joe donated his \$200 back and John Tardy bought another \$100 ticket. Thanks!

I had some great news when I returned. Nancy had sent me an email that Unit 112 had donated \$500.00. thank you Ladies.

Ladies, we are off to a great start this year...please don't forget about the Car Show June 4<sup>th</sup>. We need \$25 sponsor awards, silent auction items, cold drinks, water, paper products cash donations or gift cards to buy food.

If anyone has a large ticket item that we could raffle, that would be great. Please bring or send your donations to the Spring Conferences. The sponsor awards, checks or gift cards you can send to me at 219 Felicity St., Bay St Louis MS 39520.

I had several Units that are going to have fund raisers please let me know what and when. Ladies, thank you so much for your support.

For God and Country,

*June Laws, Chairman*



**District V** chose Zebra Swallowtail Butterfly and below is their Butterfly theme:

**B-y**  
**U-nderstanding**  
**T-he**  
**T-asks,**  
**E-veryone**  
**R-eaches**  
**F-or**  
**L-oyalty**  
**Y-early**

## MEMBERSHIP



Membership is everybody's business! How many times have you heard Angela say that? Well, you are going to keep hearing it from me, because it is going to take all of us working on membership. We need to increase our turn-ins, and we need to start now.

Congratulations to Mound Bayou 220 and Jackson 91 for making 100 %.

There is still a chance for you to get some money for your units by being 102% 30 days prior to National Convention and earn \$150.00 for your unit. All of the 100% units need to be working toward that goal.

We are currently #37 in the Nation, coming in at 68.78%. We are so close to 70%. We can do this. I know this Department still has more to give. Let's show National that we are not giving up without a fight. Remember, Membership is everybody's business.

For God and Country,

*Diane Belue, Chairman*

### **Every Time A Bell Rings, A Unit Gets Its Wings!**

#### **100% Units**

Greenwood 200                  West Point 212                  Lakeshore 152                  Mound Bayou 220

#### **100% Plus Units**

Corinth 6	Aberdeen 26	Iuka 15	Tishomingo 144	Louisville 62
Pontotoc 16	Meridian 21	Brandon 68	Indianola 2	Nesbit 1990
Philadelphia 138	Lucedale 53	Bay Springs 71	Ocean Springs 42	Jackson 91

## AMERICANISM



Units should be working on the Americanism Essay Contest. This year's theme is "How do we keep Lincoln's promise to our veterans and their families?" The winners in each six classes should be sent to me no later than April 1<sup>st</sup>, because my deadline to the National Chairman is April 15<sup>th</sup>. This year the monetary awards will be the same as last year thanks to Mr. Joe Kersh and Post #1776. The Department of MS has had two (2) National winners in the last five (5) years and that says a lot for students within the school systems. A copy of the Application Cover Sheet must accompany every essay submitted, located in your Plan of Action.

The Oratorical Finals will be judged on March 5<sup>th</sup>. I attended the contest at Winona, and the three students were awesome. With encouragement, students will aspire to better themselves in knowledge and leadership skills for their futures.

Also, remember there will be a \$50.00 contest between units with a different patriotic salute/activity/whatever. I gave examples in last month's column. If anyone has questions, my phone is 662-674-5708 and email is [flowersandpups@aol.com](mailto:flowersandpups@aol.com).

Patriotic Quotes: "In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms. The first is freedom of speech and expression--everywhere in the world. The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way--everywhere in the world. The third is freedom from want--which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants--everywhere in the world. The fourth is freedom from fear--which, translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor--anywhere in the world," written by Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Dates to Remember: March 3 (1931) "Star-Spangled Banner" made USA National Anthem, March 7<sup>th</sup> (1945) US troops invade Germany at Remagen, March 13<sup>th</sup> Daylight Savings Time Begins, March 12<sup>th</sup> (1912) Girls Scouts of the USA was founded, March 17<sup>th</sup> St Patrick's Day, March 19<sup>th</sup> (2003) Iraqi Freedom Began, March 20<sup>th</sup> Spring Begins & Palm Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup> Good Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> Easter & the only Flag Display Day of March.

For God and Country, *Wendy Walters, Chairman*

## DEPARTMENT SUPPORT FUND



Hello, Butterflies! The Department Support Fund stands at \$10,100.37 as of 01/31/16. THANK YOU THANK YOU. Due to a very generous donation YEA!!!! But let's keep working and beat Diane's \$9000.00 total from last year (without donations).

At Mid-Winter Conference, we had a silent auction, butterfly parade, and game night. The following is a break-down of funds.

Special projects did a GREAT Job and have closed the project funds, so the Support Fund will take over the planned Sock Hop for State Convention in July. We will have a silent auction, hat parade and sock hop, so get your hats and costumes READY!!! We will parade in the Legion room as before with our hats, and Friday night at the Sock Hop, we will have a costume contest. We will also have hot dogs, chips, and soda for a cost of \$5.00 and a \$5.00 entry fee.

There are 2 challenges left for the Support Fund: 1. The districts that have \$1000.00 or more turned in to Nancy Sanders by Monday before State Convention will be entered in a drawing for \$100.00; 2. The Unit with the highest turn in to Nancy by Monday before State Convention will win \$100.00.

### AT THIS TIME WE HAVE TURNED IN TO NANCY THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS:

DISTRICT	PRES NAME	BUTTERFLY NAME	AMT 1/29/16	AMT 1/31/16
District One	Diane Belue	Monarch	200.00	
District Two	Barbara Palmertree			
District Three	Mary Riddle	Great Purple Hairstreak		
District Four	Joyce Porter		90.00	
District Five	Wendi Walters	Zebra Swallow Tail		23.73
District Six	Mattie Harris	Palamedes Swallow Tail	100.00	23.73
District Seven	Tibethia Smith	Queen Alexandra's Birdwing		23.73
District Eight	Peggy McCluskey	Metal Mark	1,000.00	449.00 + 23.73
District Nine	Dianell Miller	Peacock	245.00	23.73
<b>SUB TOTAL DISTRICTS</b>			<b>\$1,635.00</b>	<b>567.65</b>
<b>Department</b>	Jackie Baughman	Painted Lady	\$1,500.00	955.72
<b>Donations</b>	Post 1776		\$5,000.00	
	Ron Roberts		100.00	
	NAC		117.00	
	CAC		114.00	
	SAC		111.00	
<b>SUB TOTAL DONATIONS</b>			<b>\$5,442.00</b>	
<b>Total at this time</b>			<b>\$8,577.00</b>	<b>1,523.37</b>
<b>TOTAL AS OF 01/31/16</b>			<b>\$10,100.37</b>	

*Jacqueline S. Baughman, Department Support Fund Chairman*

#### SPECIAL PROJECT NOTE OF THANKS...

*I would like to start with a special thanks to everyone that jumped in and helped at Mid-Winter in January. We had in incredible time and some fantastic fundraising. We successfully raised all the money we need for hospitality room for the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in October. A special thanks goes to The American Legion Department of Mississippi and to Post 1776 for their gracious donations to assist and help make this a huge success for The Auxiliary. I look forward to seeing everyone again at the Spring Area Conferences and at State Convention. THANKS AGAIN TO ALL.*

*Melissa Seward, Chairman*



## DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

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

Phone: 601.353.3681  
E-mail: [ALAMSHQ@att.net](mailto:ALAMSHQ@att.net)

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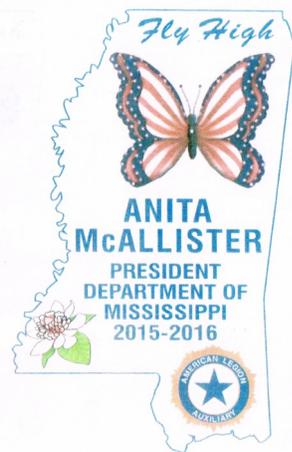
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## FROM THE DEPT. SECRETARY



Spring is in the air! Sunshine always makes us happy! The poppies are all boxed up and ready for delivery. They will be delivered at the Spring conferences, unless we are asked to ship for an early Poppy Day.

We have heard no word as to who will be announcing for Chaplain. Labels have been mailed to all officers who are announcing their candidacy except for Chaplain. Please let us know at the Department Headquarters if you need assistance. As you know, announcements are accepted at Spring Conference.

No word yet on where State Convention will be or when. Hope to have news very soon. Please know that we will let you know when we know.

Carpenters are in the War Memorial Building (Headquarters) and are making many ceiling repairs and replacements. Dust is everywhere and the hall floors are white right now. For those of you who plan a visit in the next week or so, please be careful of the mess.

Plans are going well for the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Thank you to all who are volunteering to help with the Hospitality Room. This is going to be fun and exciting. You will be meeting and talking with some great talent who are all veterans. Very soon we will be sending out a chart for you to fill in on the day or days you will volunteer to work the hospitality room. We have assigned five team captains who have been diligently working to put together their hospitality teams. We are working on the schedule of responsibilities you will have daily so that our room will run smoothly.

See you all at Spring conferences!

For God and Country,

*Nancy Sanders, Dept. Secretary/Treasurer*

### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT

**The Secretary Search Committee is again accepting applications for the office of Department Secretary. For more information, contact the Dept. President.**

## IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Our heartfelt condolences go out to the Family of Ed Merriman, PDC, who passed this week. We wish comfort for Rosemary and his family—we are all saddened to lose such a wonderful man and dedicated Legionnaire.

To those of our Legion family who have been sick and/or convalescing, we offer our thoughts and best wishes for a speedy recovery.