

Department of
Mississippi

Magnolia



AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY

Serving veterans, their families and their communities

Monthly
Newsletter

May 2013



GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



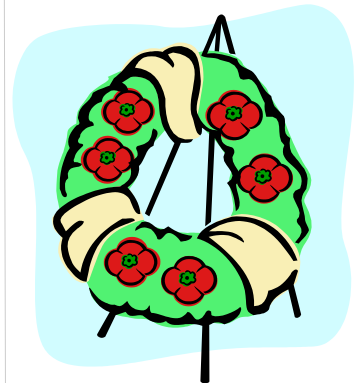
Hello again ladybugs. This year is fast coming to a close and we have so much we need to do to finish out our year. I hope each unit has done their reports and sent them to the Chairmen. It is so important to get the reports to them so they will be able to have a report at State Convention and give out awards. If your unit was not represented at any of

the Area Conferences and did not give your unit report, please send one to Nancy and she can get it to the Department Historian and me. We want to be able to have a great report to send to National of what we all have done this year. Speaking of Area Conferences, I would like to thank Aberdeen Unit 26, Vicksburg Unit 213 and Laurel Unit 11, along with their posts for hosting our Spring Area Conferences. We appreciate them for making us feel welcome and doing a great job in preparing for the conferences. I want to also thank each unit who sent a member/members to the conferences. The District Presidents and Vice Presidents for 2013-2014 were elected and the Vice Presidents were installed by me, the Presidents will be installed at State Convention. Thank you to the Presidents and Vice Presidents for accepting their positions for the next year. Don't forget Memorial Day is this month and an opportunity to distribute poppies, and don't forget to include your Juniors and your Miss Poppy and Little Miss Poppy when you distribute the poppies.

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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...*

There are times when it's good to be last...like in a spelling bee.... but not when you are #50 in membership. I understand money is tight for most of us, but I feel there is something we can do without, in order to pay dues. Being a paid member gives our National leaders leverage in

Washington, D.C., when they are fighting for our veterans; the money helps keep our Department running. This is a great organization doing great work, but without members---old and new---we will cease to exist. What will happen to our veterans? Who will fight for them? We need you, so please pay your dues, if you haven't already done so.

To those that are paid, thank you.

April was a busy, busy month. National President Peggy Thomas paid a visit to MS and what a fun lady she is. We covered a lot of territory in the few days that she was here and I wish more of you could have met her. Thank you to all that worked to make her visit a pleasant and successful one.

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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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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2ND VICE PRESIDENT-VA&R CHAIRMAN



It has been a busy month already. I really enjoyed meeting our National President and getting to spend a little time with her. We all really were in awe as we got to visit the Kosiusko VA Home and visit with our Veterans there. The Veterans were happy that the National President came to visit with them.

The Northern Area Conference was well attended and Aberdeen done a great job hosting the event. The unit reports were excellent, and the elections went real well. The Central Area Conference was also well attended and Vicksburg 213 did a great job of hosting that event. We all enjoyed hearing all the happenings of what the Units have been doing this past year. The Mississippi Auxiliary is Amazing!

I really hope all of the elected District Presidents and District Vice Presidents are preparing to get out and help the Units. There is so much you can do to encourage the local Units and keep them abreast of the news from the Department. I want congratulate each of you and look forward to working with you in the coming year.

For God and Country,

Mary Barrett, 2nd Vice

FOR THE RECORD – DEPT. HISTORIAN



Unit 69 in Columbus really enjoyed having our National President, Peggy Thomas, visit and speak to us. She shared her **history** of her global travels this past year and how honored she was to represent us and to promote the welfare of our veterans through the Auxiliary. The many members and Legionnaires who traveled to hear her and welcome her were inspired by her dignity, dedication and sincerity. And yes, we took pictures for the [scrapbook!!!](#)

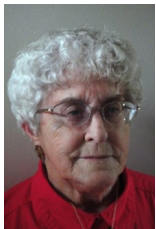
We took pictures in Aberdeen, Unit 26, at the Northern and again in Vicksburg, Unit 213, at the Central Area Conference. These were well-hosted, informative and productive, yielding elected district presidents and vice presidents for the upcoming year. More **history!**

Hope you have completed your annual unit reports and have them in the mail to me at my home address: 2835 Nashville Ferry Rd. E., Columbus, MS 39702. Your history is important as we add it to the entire state's history for 2012-2013. Hope you have your photos, newspaper articles and other memorabilia for President Sarah's scrapbook sent to Audrey Porter, 250 Henry Lane, Caledonia, MS 39740.

For God and Country,

Diane Lawrence, Historian

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER—DEPT. CHAPLAIN



Greetings to all from your Chaplain. This past month has been a rather quiet month and I have had to send out only 2 sympathy cards and one get well card. I wish to thank all those Chaplains who have sent in their reports, poems and other items and will be looking for more over May and June. Time is getting short so please keep them coming.

I wish to report on my work up to this month. So far I have spent 22 hours of volunteer work; assisted one veteran; spent \$15.00; and have assisted one

military family.

Well Spring has finally come and isn't it great to see Gods work in the trees the flowers and the grass. It makes me think about the resurrection of Jesus. I know it takes longer but to think about this. It happens year after year and is always slightly different from year to year. Having lived most of my life in the north eastern part of the United States it is even more significant. To see no flowers, brown grass and no leaves on the trees and to see them to go from the blank of winter into the great rebirth of Spring every year is one of the wonders of God's work. We should all give Him thanks for his great work.

That is it for this month, and I leave with you God's blessings.

For God and Country,

*Patricia Whitney
Dept. Chaplain*



NEWS FROM DEPT. CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

MEMBERSHIP

Our third milestone of 85% is fast approaching and our membership is way down. Mississippi was the only department to reach all of the target dates last year, and we reached 102% in membership. What has happened? Some Units that were 100% last year are struggling to make 70% this year. Why? We need to pull together and contact our members to get them to renew their membership.

Everyone needs to work membership to keep our programs strong. If you are having trouble

getting your membership, please contact your District Presidents or me for help. You can also call on a PDP in your area they always have great ideas for getting membership.

We don't have much time but we can do it and with hard work we can also reach our 100% and bring Mississippi back on top where we belong.

For God and Country,

Joyce Porter, Chairman

AMERICANISM



The Central Area Conference at Vicksburg Post #213 was successful. Thanks for a wonderful meal, which all enjoyed.

I have received some early Americanism reports. Unit Americanism chairmen send your reports, the deadline is May 1st. There are units which doesn't have chairman, Presidents please send your reports. Every unit has something to report.

The winners of my "Americanism Trivia" are Lynette Criss and Carolyn Bennett!!

Hooray! I am so proud of these Auxiliary members. These two names will go into the "Winners Circle" for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place winners and will be awarded at State Convention.

The month of May trivia question is:

What Presidents of the United States appear on the \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100 bills?? This question should be easier without much research on the internet! Good luck, Americanism Chairmen/Presidents!

For God and Country,

Wendy Walters, Chairman

PUBLIC RELATIONS



It's time to think about our "Public" knowing about what we are doing for the American Legion Auxiliary and for God and Country. There are many units who do not have things published due to many reasons, but send me anything you can. Please send me all your newspaper articles, anything published or announced, so that I can put it in our book for department. My address is 205 Marler St., Cleveland, MS 38732. **Your year-end report was due May 1, too, so send your unit's now. Many thanks!**

Mary Jane Ervin, Chairman

1ST VICE MESSAGE CONTINUED...

from cover

We have had two Area Conferences and many of you have been busy across the State. I wish that more reports had been turned in, especially since my goal for the year was for more, not less. It's important that we hear about your activities; what you do inspires others and President Sarah needs your info for her report.

There have been two tragedies in our country within a few days of each other. When praying for our military and veterans, we need to add everyone affected by the violent act in Boston, MA and the explosion in West, TX.

For God and Country,

Rose Blanchard, 1st Vice President



MAGNOLIA GIRLS STATE!

Greetings from your Girls State Director! I am proud to say we are getting applications from schools in very new areas. That means our website is being utilized as we wished by our high school counselors. The amount of young ladies who were delegates last year who wish to return to Girls State as junior counselors is astounding! I have a folder an inch thick of requests. We are excited to inform you that we have at least a dozen new scholarships this year, some that will be a very pleasant surprise. If you have not contacted your local schools yet for interested graduating junior girls, you are not only denying a young lady in your community a chance for a college scholarship, but an automatic college credit just for attending. I am also proud to announce that our Governor of Girls State 2012 was recently given a most coveted scholarship by Senator Thad Cochran to the University of Mississippi because of her Girls State activities and the nature of our program. I'm talking thousands!!! I was very happy to have been a part of this process. We also have other pleasant surprises in store for our delegates. Please make sure your community schools have someone represented. It might make a difference in their future. In the meantime, all applications must be in the Department office no later than May 15. This will give us barely enough time to get their city assignments and packets to them. The fee is \$275 per delegate. If your unit has collected money for a delegate and you have no one to send, your money could send another delegate to Girls State who will otherwise be left out because of her financial situation. For further information on Girls State 2013, fillable forms necessary, rules, etc., please check our website at www.missala.com and click on "Girls State."

Thank you for your help!

Nancy Sanders, Director

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED...

from cover

I know you all are tired to hearing MEMBERSHIP, but we need you to keep searching for ladybugs out there who are not members, and also those renewals. We are far below our goal, and it is so sad that so many of our members are just not interested in joining us this year. If you are holding your membership, PLEASE DO NOT DO THAT!

Our membership numbers are so important when our National Officers go before Congress and our President to discuss the budget for our veterans and other matters concerning the veterans. Ultimately what concerns the veterans concerns us! Our mission is to help our veterans and what better way than being a member of the auxiliary and showing the nation our support for our veterans.

I hope each unit has nominated your officers for next year and next month have your election. As soon as you have your election, please send your list of officers for 2013-2014 to Nancy at the department office. By doing that it will ensure that the proper person is sent information this next year from the department officers and department chairmen.

I look forward to seeing you all at State Convention in Vicksburg in July. Our State Commander John Tardy and National Executive Committeeman Robert Gosa have been ill, so we need to keep them in our prayers. Please keep all our Auxiliary and Legion members who have been sick or lost loved ones in our prayers. Most of all and certainly not least, please keep our service men and women and their families in our prayers.

For God and Country,

Sarah Edwards, President



NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

COMMUNITY SERVICE



Our Northern Area Spring Conference 2013 has been completed. Thank you, Aberdeen, for your hospitality. We had a wonderful time. During this meeting of the minds, many Unit triumphs were shared and new ideas generated. Judging from Unit President's reports, we have all been very busy representing the ALA in our home towns. Let's give credit where credit is due as we prepare year end reports and co-ordinate efforts for our July convention.

This month, I would like to share with you two recent news items that are examples of community service up close and personal. Knowing all of the individuals involved makes this a special and heartfelt tribute. I feel good to know, that in some cases I had the honor of serving with these recipients and had a hand in contributing to their recognition.

◆ This week, commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Clarksdale Noon Lions Club and the 25th Anniversary of the Clarksdale Sunset Lions Club, two wonderful legionnaires with longevity, were honored for their service. Dr. Robert M. Ellard, age 86, a retired Superintendent of the Clarksdale Public Schools (1972-1992), was presented the Melvin Jones Fellowship in honor to his service to the Lions Club and our community. Frank P. Foster, age 92, served numerous terms as Coahoma County's Chancery Clerk and last year the Lions Club recognized him for his 60 years of dedicated service, was presented a progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship. This award is given to the Lions Club International Foundation when an additional \$1000 is given to honor an individual. Catherine Hinman, a very active senior and Unit 28 member, was recognized with the presentation of the Dalstrom Award. This award is presented when \$1000 is given to The Mid-South Sight & Hearing Service in honor or memory of an individual. Even though all of these individuals have invested many years of themselves serving their local churches, our community, neighbors and friends, they are still a very active part of Clarksdale's ongoing list of volunteers.

◆ Each year *The Commercial Appeal* sponsors an annual "Jefferson Awards," recognizing the many men and women that have so graciously volunteered their time, and in some cases resources, to make our community a better place. On March 28th, its 14th annual event was held at the Peabody Hotel. Recognized on National and local levels, 10 area men and women were honored for their outstanding community and public service. One of our own was among this year's awardees. Sandra Morris, a member of Horn Lake Unit 134, who is lovingly referred to as "Aunt Sam," and known as the "most patriotic" person in DeSoto County, was honored for her dedication and involvement in community events. Sandra has an on-going mission to thank every Veteran she meets, as she greets them with a star from a retired flag and a note letting them know that they are not forgotten. Among her many volunteer efforts Sandra is also an active member of the Patriot Guard Riders that escort fallen soldiers from the airport to their final resting place.

I feel certain that you know many individuals that are just as dedicated and loyal in giving back and paying forward to others. Included in that group is you! As we remember our fallen heroes this Memorial Day, let me hear about your Community Service accomplishments whether completed through your personal efforts or ALA Unit activities. Your year-end reports were due to me by May 1st. If you have not done so, you can either email me at cooperyergerala28@bellsouth.net or drop your report in the mail to my home address at 1015 Miller Dr., Clarksdale, MS 38614. Thanks!

"Holidays to Focus Efforts" in May are: • 5/8 WWII – VE Day • 5/17 Armed Forces Day • 5/27 Memorial Day

Mary Jo Abraham, Chairman

NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

EDUCATION



By now, you should have sent me your unit year-end reports for Education, but if you have not, I will still take them if you will email them asap to me at kdungan@hughes.net. Don't forget to email me pictures of your unit promoting the Education program.

I wanted to remind you of the Education awards. I hope we have many units submitting entries for these awards. There are general rules that apply for every program, but also check your Plan of Action:

- Must be a narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.
- Must include a cover page with name of the award entry, Department name, Unit name, and name & address of unit chairman.
- Copy of your unit's Department Education Report form must be included.
- All entries are due to me **May 20** as department chairman to be judged, and the winning entry will be forwarded to the appropriate national committee member for judging.

There are five Unit awards available:

Most Outstanding American Education Week Program.

Most Outstanding Literacy Program.

Most Outstanding Scholarship Program.

Most Outstanding Veterans in the Classroom Program.

Honoring the Service of our Military. Can include pictures and other forms of publicity.

For God and Country,

Kathy Dungan, Chairman

CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Just returned from the Central Area Conference, held at Post 213, in Vicksburg. Some Units gave some reports as to what their Units have been doing. Elections were held for District 4-5-6 President and Vice President. The Vice President was installed at the meeting, and the President will be installed at State Convention.

I attended a Leadership Workshop at Unit 29 in Greenwood. the workshop was well presented by Nancy, Angela, and Joyce. If you have the opportunity to attend one, please go. The information given in such a way you have never before.

Please don't forget your "Year End Report" was due to me by the 1st of MAY. If I can be of any help to you, please let me know.

For God and Country,

Rosemary Merriman, Chairman



DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

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FROM THE DEPT. SECRETARY



Greetings from the Department!

April and May are very busy months at your Department Headquarters. The first wave of poppies have been shipped, and we are impatiently awaiting the second shipment. We should have everyone's poppies by the end of May (or before). Even at this early date, we are already preparing for State Convention and National Convention. Don't forget Girls State preparation is going full throttle! The membership is trickling in to our disappointment. Please don't forget elections are coming up and those who have not renewed their dues for 2013 will be unable to vote their choice of officers. We were right at goal this time last year.

This is the final call for those units who need to change the address of where your renewal notices will be mailed to and to change your membership dues amount. After May 15, it will be too late for your first National membership mail-out. Please do not forget this. It is also the deadline to change mailing addresses for your members.

Finally, you will need to remember your unit will not be able to vote at State Convention if your unit has not paid its assessments. Also, remember that your unit delegate votes are based on your membership amount.

As always, we are here to serve you at Department Headquarters. Please call if you need anything.

For God and Country,

Nancy Sanders

SOUTHERN AREA UNITS

As you know, our Conference is scheduled for May 11, in Laurel, which is after the due date for reports. Write your reports and send them to the appropriate Chairman, as you would normally do, keep a copy for yourself. Presidents send copies of your report to Nancy at the Department address or to Sarah Edwards by the May 1 deadline. Keep a copy of your report so you will have it for your oral presentation at the Conference.

If I can help in anyway, please contact me.

Rose Blanchard, Dept. 1st Vice President