Department of Mississippi

Magnolia News

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Serving veterans, their families and their communities

Monthly Newsletter

May 2014

Greetings from the Department President

Who are we and what do we do? We are the moms, wives, sisters, (descendants of a veteran) that are dedicated to our veterans, our military and their families; to do the best that we can to honor and support them. Because these men and women made a promise to protect us, it is now our turn to make that same promise to them and this can only be done by working together as a team.

We talk about growing our membership and this year the emphasis is on rejoins---those that stopped paying dues. This could be for a legitimate reason, but the one that is most disturbing, is too much arguing, etc. at meetings. Personally, if I was attending a meeting like this, I wouldn't go back either. Look around you, do you see smiles, hear laughter, are people paying attention; or do you see solemn faces, hear bickering and see people concentrating on their emails. Courtesy is to give full attention when another is speaking. You may not agree with what is said, but everyone is entitled to an opinion. We are all different and we need to "agree to disagree," not belittle or ridicule another for speaking her feelings.

Well, so far, as your President this year, I have tried to have fun, kept my pinky painted blue, and tried to stay positive. This is easier said than done, and it shouldn't be. We are all members of ALA, working for the same cause, no one is better than anyone else and we all need to respect each other, not make problems due to personal reasons. There is no room for negativity in any Auxiliary meeting.

On a more positive note, I have enjoyed our area conferences, hearing the wonderful things that have happened this year and, of course, sharing with each of you. Did I forget to mention that the food was outstanding! Reports should be to Committee Chairmen by now and I'm anxious to see more of what's going on in MS.

Please continue to pray for those that are sick, have lost loved ones, our veterans, service members and their families.

For God and Country,

Rose Blanchard
Department President

Calendar of Events

2014 State Convention
July 18-20
Battlefield Inn, Vicksburg

1st Vice President-Programs Coordinator

The Spring Area Conferences are over, and the Units have all sent in their reports to the proper chairmen. Hopefully, every Unit President has also sent a copy to the Department Historian, Eva Ford, and a copy to our President, Rose Blanchard. Your District President also needs a copy of your reports. To all Unit Presidents, have you ever wondered why you need to send copies to these different people?

Your District President is required to give a report at year-end on everything that has been done in her District for the whole year. The District President determines from your reports what awards are due in that District. Each Department Chairman is required to give year-end reports at State Convention, the reports are where she gets her info to give awards. The Chairmen also have to report to National what Mississippi has done in each program, which is due to National by June 1. The Chairmen also like to give special awards for a job well done.

Your Historian needs your report to preserve the incidents that have happen throughout the year in this Great State of Mississippi. The Historian is also required to send a report to National.

Your President uses your reports to determine who deserves "Unit of the Year Award" and the reports also let her know first hand what each of you have done. Our President will give a report to National to let them know what Mississippi has done the past year.

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2ND VICE PRESIDENT-VA&R CHAIRMAN

Hello Ladies, this month has been busy: the Northern Area Conference hosted by Clarksdale, Southern Area Conference hosted by Hattiesburg, and Central Area Conference hosted by Columbus. The conferences were well attended, the reports were excellent, and a great job by all hosting. Thank you! We all enjoy hearing what the other units have been doing. We have a great Auxiliary, and I am proud to be a member.

Elections were held for District Presidents and Vice Presidents, and the Vice Presidents were installed at each conference. I hope they are ready to go out and help all the units and keep them informed. I congratulate each of you and look forward to working with you in the coming year.

I hope you all have sent your reports in, so we can look good on the reports going to National. Please continue working with our Veterans, remember our MISSION IS OUR VETERANS. Thank you for all you do.

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

Now we have reached the end of the road. All of our reports hopefully are in, and we will combine the information to form a document to add to our history. I am confident that we will have a powerful closure for this past year.

Information that will close the chapter for this era and open a new chapter that has yet to be written. What will your chapter be? What can each and every one of us do to bring about changes for our community and state? It is our individual responsibility to initiate change for the betterment of the community. Let us start working harder for our veterans with determination.

The time has come when we make our final reports for 2013-14.

Keep in mind that any and all document reported after May 1 will not be included in the document sent to National June 1. However, if you have significant information for the betterment of ALA, we welcome it for our future history. Much of the very well written information has been reported already.

Once all reports are in, we can get busy completing those history books for state convention. Let's make history and have the best history books including prayer books, and youth books. Remember to bring your books in for early evaluation and judging. That's important. You just maybe the winner! Why not? Somebody will for sure!!

There are not enough words to express the cooperation, support and love all of you have shown during the past year. Thank you. May God bless each of you and may his blessing continue to bind us together to keep our ALA growing for our veterans and families. Keep in mind "Together We Stand, Divided We Fail."

All about love, respect, and appreciation for our veterans, not self.

For God and Country,

Eva Ford, Dept. Historian

News from Dept. Chairmen and more...

AMERICANISM

The Spring Area Conferences were enlightening as far as reports were concerned. The deadline for reports to the department chairmen has passed. I certainly hope individual units have documented the activities of the members. Unit elections are nest month and then State Convention.

The trivia questions have sparked interest this year. There are several members that diligently seek the answers from different sources. Personally, I have learned information by looking for the questions concerning our America and its forefathers.

This Memorial Day give thanks for all men and women in the military, active and retired, who sacrificed for all Americans to enjoy freedom.

Dates to remember: May 1st, Loyalty Day & National Day of Prayer; May 2nd, US Navy Seals bring Osama bin Laden to Justice; May 6th, Nurses Day & Bob Hope's first USO Show; May 8th, V-E Day (1945); May 15th, Women's Army Corps Founded (1942); May 17th, Armed Forces Day; May 22nd, National Maritime Day; May 26th, Memorial Day; and

May trivia questions: (1) Who was the Statue of Liberty's sculptor? (2) Who was the Statue of Liberty's face of? (3) When and Who was the Statue of Liberty dedicated to the United States? Did you know its torch held high, symbolizes liberty shedding light upon the world? At her feet is a broken shackle, symbolizing the overthrow of tyranny! The statue has served as an inspiration to Americans and others yearning to be free for over 100 years!

For God and Country,

Wendy Walters, Chairman

Chaplain's Corner

Hi Ladies,

I've recently attended the annual oratorical on the constitution, and as usual it would be impossible for me to judge these young people. They make me proud to be an American, and a member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Have you truly thought about our Declaration of Independence and constitution? The work that went into it, to try to guarantee each of us the right, of justice, freedom, and democracy are mind blowing. How many times have you heard or recited the words, but do we listen to the words. " WE, the people (not one or two of us) …, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility,…secure the Blessing of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity …". WOW, the thought that went into those words!

The American Legion Auxiliary preamble also has a great deal of time and thought in its words. "For God and Country, WE associate ourselves TOGETHER for the following purposes: …", again WE (not me or Joan Blow). As many have said time and time again, "let's leave our problems at the door," we gather together for the VETERANS and strive to improve the life's of all the men and women who have given so much in order to insure domestic Tranquility and Blessing of Liberty to US.

At your next meeting, listen to the words, they are beautiful in thought and meaning, For God and Country, we use the words to sign our notes and letters, do we mean them? I hope each of us (especially me) opens up our hearts and mind to the work, time, and thought that have gone into these documents and we truly listen and strive to honor them with our actions.

Thanks for all the reports, letters, cards, prayers, and articles. I hope to do you honor with the Prayer Book.

For God and Country,

Jackie Baughman, Dept. Chaplain

News from Dept. Chairmen and more...

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Hope all members and Units are studying their Constitution & Bylaws and Standing Rules as you work through your process for nominations and elections of officers for the 2014-15 American Legion Auxiliary year. Try to match your in-Unit talent with the requirements of duties of each office. Careful preparation can bring an accomplishing and interested set of officers for the new year.

As you may be aware by now, the American Legion Auxiliary has taken action to change the eligibility for membership wording to "descendants" to make it clearer and for all time. However, The American Legion must place it's stamp of approval on this change before it is actually usable and to be distributed. We anticipate the Legion's approval at National Convention late this summer; and if so, next Auxiliary year we will begin incorporating the change in our Department and Unit Constitutions & Bylaws. Stay tuned.

Thanks for the annual reports I have received, and thanks for making every effort to abide by our governing documents in the conduct of Auxiliary business.

May God keep on blessing America,

Diane Cantrell, Chairman

LEGISLATIVE

GOOD MORNING America!!!!!!!

Our Southern Division legislative Chairwoman has sent a quick note to remind us ……

'Since most of your Legislators will be coming home for a break soon, there is no better time to remind them of our mission, so get your department members busy and have them contact these people to let them know we are not resting on our laurels and will keep after them to pass the legislation concerning our veterans and military, namely, H.R.55 which protects veterans and DOD from harmful cuts due to sequestration, H.R..813/S.932 to properly fund VA to ensure quality health care and benefits for veterans, S.62/H.R.385 which ends veteran homelessness, H.J.RES.47/SJ.RES.17 which protects our flag.'

Once again I encourage you all to serve your community by working together as an organization so we can make a difference.

Beverly Cottom, Chairman

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Greetings to everyone!

The deadline is NOW for reports to be submitted for Public Relations. 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 varies ways such as flyers, community calendars, Tee 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 Legion 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.

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,

Charlotte Williams, Chairman

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

HUNGRY FOR 100%—PLUS!

Membership is like the monkey who has found a new banana tree—hungry, hungry, hungry!

Ladies, we are getting closer and closer to becoming a goal department for this year. So close that it's going to be are hardest challenge yet—shaking loose those last renewals holdouts and rejoining members who lapsed a year or two for whatever reason.

So, guess what, I'm going to keep encouraging you to seek out our **RENEWALS**. Remind yourself about what I'm asking for by looking at the bottom of the Membership Report included in this newsletter. Read it and let's get out there and go find these members we have misplaced somewhere. *YOU CAN DO IT, MISSISSIPPI*—you know how much I believe in you and what we've seen you do before. Many thanks to each and everyone who has continued to work so hard for our membership program. **WE NEED 314 MEMBERS TO REACH 100% GOAL (Better yet, 450 to reach 103%!!!)**

For God and Country,

Angela Kilcrease, Chairman

P.S. We're going to have a drawing for CASH for goal units. More to come!

***Asterick indicates new joiners to the lists below this month...many congrats and thanks!**

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF MISSISSIPPI'S

100 PERCENT (PLUS!) UNITS!

***Corinth 6 (101.29%) *Aberdeen 26 (100%) Corinth 207 (115.39%) Fulton 51 (129.55%)**
Baldwyn 130 (108.83%) *Amory 239 (100%) New Albany 72 (104.66%) Tishomingo 144 (100%)
Nesbit 1990 (118.19%) Cleveland 165 (101.93%) *Indianola 206 (100%) Mound Bayou 220 (102.13%)
Grenada 35 (180%) Kosciusko 44 (113.12%) Ackerman 82 (104.77%) Vicksburg 3 (106%)
Yazoo City 7 (109.09%) Vicksburg 213 (111.24%) Jackson 91 (100%) *Yazoo City 201 (105.27%)
Jackson 214 (127.28%) Tylertown 56 (113.58%) 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 (101.30%) Lakeshore 152 (114.29%) Gautier-Vancleave (102.84%) *D'Iberville 2002 (100%)**

As of 4/29/2014 report—36 GOAL PLUS UNITS TO DATE OUT OF 83 UNITS

85% Plus UNITS!

Tupelo 49 Pontotoc 16 Calhoun City 50 *Horn Lake 134 Indianola 2 Greenwood 29
Greenwood 200 Starkville 13 *Winona 52 *Columbus 69 Louisville 62 *Canton 67 *McComb 14
Wesson 79 Tylertown 120 Hattiesburg 24 Standard 58 Picayune 73 *Petal 146 Headquarters 106

DISTRICTS WHO HAVE REACHED 85% PLUS

District 8: 111.12 District 1: 99.82% District 7: 98.64%
District 4: 98.37% District 9: 91.95% *District 6: 87.89%

DISTRICTS 2 AND 3: SO CLOSE TO 85% GOAL...LET'S DO THIS BY MAY 17!

DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

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

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

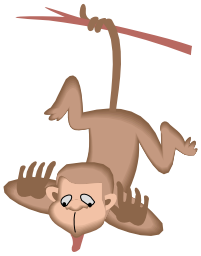
WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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

Greetings and WELCOME SPRING – finally! This Department is as busy as tree monkeys getting ready for conferences, State Convention, Girls State, ALWAYS accounting and gearing up to update the membership program with National for 2014-2015. If that's not enough, the office will be closed from May 1 – 5 for the President/Secretary/Membership Conference in Indianapolis. That is where we will learn what is going to be happening next year with our programs and membership. I don't think they are ready for Mary Barrett, Anita McAllister, Angela Kilcrease and me at the same time in the same place, but we're going to do it – ready or not!

National has given us a date to begin changing the dues amounts of Units. This is your last chance to let me know if you are anticipating dues changes for next year. I already have Units 1, 11 and 207's changes. These are the only ones I have received requests from. Need this by May 15 in order to get it changed for next year.

We have also been informed by National that we can start taking 2015 dues payments on July 1 on renewals only. No new 2015 members before September 1, unless the new members want to be counted in the 2014 year.

Next month, we will be sending you the delegate forms for each unit who is attending State Convention. Remember, this form needs to be turned in NO LATER than 2 weeks before State Convention, and your delegate fees must be made a part of the form if you plan to vote. We've kinda let it slide on a few occasions when units "forgot," but we need to get back in line and do it right, right? Don't want your new Secretary in two years to think I didn't bring you up right.

I'm hungry for membership. Feed me! We are too close to quit now! Come on girl-friends!

Don't forget Girls State will be at USM again this year. The date is June 1 – 6. We need another hundred delegates. We know they are out there and we are not contacting those schools! We are giving away 47 scholarships at Girls State and want delegates from YOUR area to get them. If you need assistance, please email Headquarters (alamshq@att.net) or Brooke Cullen, Director (gsdir2014@gmail.com).

I apologize for being off the wall. Spring fever! Gets to me every time.

For God and Country I remain,

Nancy Sanders, Dept. Secretary/Treasurer

FROM THE 1ST VICE PRESIDENT—PROGRAMS COORDINATOR, CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE:

So now you know why it is so important to make the different copies. If you are a Unit President and have not sent in your report, please take the time right this moment and get them in. Each report is important to help our Veterans, our State and our Communities.

At each Spring Conference we read the duties of what is expected from our District Officers. We read these duties so each member would know what the Officers needed to know and do before they were elected to this most important position. Each newly elected Officer was also given a copy of her duties as a District President and a District Vice-President. Please consider inviting your District Officers to your Units so they can share what is changing and keeping each Unit up to date on all the things going on in the Department plus what is happening in their own District. They will also have the information on changes being made at the National level. The Officers will be available to assist you in getting information and helping with your questions about this Wonderful Organization. It is important that each Units get know their District Officers and let them be your current information source.

For God and Country,

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