

Department of
Mississippi

Magnolia



AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY

Serving veterans, their families and their communities

Monthly
Newsletter

May 2015

**CALENDAR OF
EVENTS**

- Central Area Conference, May 9 at Post 112 in Jackson
- May 12-13, National President's Visit
- Meet and Greet Luncheon—open to all members at Unit 112 in Jackson on Wednesday, May 13 at 11 a.m.

Please help The American Legion Family grow stronger and sign up a new member in any and all branches of our AL family.

“BEEP BEEP” and we remain “ON THE ROAD FOR OUR VETERANS.”

For God and Country,

Mary Barrett

GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



“Beep Beep”! We are so impressed with the Unit reports that we have heard at the Southern & Northern Spring Area Conferences. The Mississippi Auxiliary is Awesome! We would also like to thank the Districts, Units and Posts that made the Conferences so nice. You have done a great job, and that is what it takes to make a successful event.

We hope all of you are planning to either host or attend a Memorial Day Event.

These Veterans have given us the freedom and the safety net that we enjoy every day. It is important that we take the time to Honor our Fallen Veterans. This month is also a good time to distribute Poppies and share the story of the Poppy with our communities. Please involve the youth in the Memorial Day Service and your Poppy Program.

Most of you know that State Commander Bennett and I have had a challenge going all year with membership. I am proud to say that we are

running neck and neck right now. The American Legion has recruited Auxiliary members, and the American Legion Auxiliary has recruited American Legion members. Just think of what a wonderful organization we all belong to as a family. Right now we are asking each of our members to continue to work on membership. We still have a while to go this year and every member counts. The Sons of the American Legion already have 100% in membership, and they are now helping The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and AL Riders with their membership.

1ST VICE PRESIDENT-PROGRAMS COORDINATOR



Congratulations to the District Presidents and Vice Presidents that were elected during our Spring Area Conferences, and we thank you for your commitment to our veterans and our organization. We wish we could have had better attendance but it is always nice to see our members and hear the great things that each unit has accomplished .

May 1 was report day. I hope all of you turned in a year-end report for each program as outlined in our Plans of Action. This is our only way of compiling the efforts of our units and letting National know of what our units have achieved throughout the year.

Memorial Day and Girls State are just around the corner. Poppy Month is a very important time for all of us to give out our Poppies as we honor our Veterans.

We have just returned from Indianapolis where several of us attended the Department Leadership Conference. We'll start formulating our plan for next year. Wish us luck.

For God and Country,

Anita McAllister, 1st Vice President

2ND VICE PRESIDENT-VA&R CHAIRMAN



Hello to our ALA family. The Spring kicked off with a bang. The Northern and Southern conferences were well attended with plenty of food and happy faces. If there were any questions on where we were headed, the tone was set, and the direction was obvious. It was apparent at both conferences that the energy was high and spirits were rolling on a full stomach. Wow! The food was great.

Now down to the grits of it. The meetings were held in a timely manner with informative reports, followed by the election of district presidents and vice presidents. The agenda included the road runners' foot size. Beep! Beep! Guess who had the biggest foot? "Sure wasn't me." Well, the purpose was to identify who can wear the presidents' shoes. Oh well! I won't tell. This was an in house secret. Back on the road again!

Think about the month as it moves on. Reports were due by May 1st. If you haven't sent them, please do now. I would like to report a true and inclusive

reflection of the activities Mississippi units have performed for our veterans. I only need what is related to our veterans.

Thank you in advance.

Thank you for all your support and continued love for our soldiers.

All about our veterans, not self.

God Bless our Veterans and God Bless America.

Eva Ford, 2nd Vice

evil39183@yahoo.com

Telephone: 601-638-3086

FOR THE RECORD – DEPT. HISTORIAN



Hi Ladies,

It was so good to see you at Southern Area Conference in April. I know several were missing, and I hope to see you soon.

Well, April over. and the spring showers we have had are rushing May right along. By the time you read this newsletter, May reports will have been turned in hopefully. I'm looking for a lot of good reports and in July seeing a lot of great scrapbooks to judge!!

And don't forget...Unit Histories are due to me by June 1.

Hope you are working hard on your Memorial Day program and Poppy days. Also, Happy Mother's Day to all, and to all the Legion Family, remember your Veterans here and abroad.

Remember in May:

Labor Day, Mother's Day, and Memorial Day.

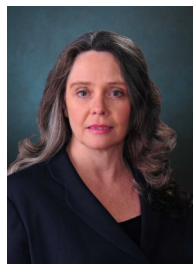
For God and Country,

Jackie Baughman, Department Historian

956 CR 17, Bay Springs, MS 39422

jbauxiliary@ymail.com; 601-480-6415

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER – DEPT. CHAPLAIN



John 15:13 - *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

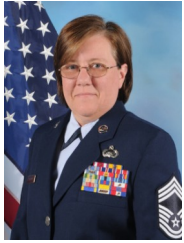
Memorial Day is a special time for all members. It's a special time to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy today, and a time to honor their memory. Local Units are abuzz with activity during this time with Poppy distributions, parades and ceremonies of remembrance.

While we remember, let's also strive to live in unity to be strengthened as an organization. No two of us are alike, but that is no reason we can't be nice to each other. Let us all strive to be a whole that gets tasks completed and works together. We may not all agree on the way we get there, but I am sure we all agree on the journey.

Though the deadline has passed for turning in reports, start now keeping a journal for next year. Let's flood congress with the news of our good works!

Tina Hurst, Dept. Chaplain

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND



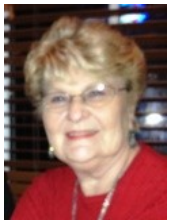
April showers bring May flowers...and has my allergies let me know that. May also brings a close to end of year reports; so by the time this comes out the deadline for the end of year reports will have passed. I thank each of you that sent in a report and shared how you raised funds and helped our Auxiliary "sisters" in their time of need. A big THANK YOU!

Ladies, it was great to work this program and learn more about our great organization. Remember, it's never too late to give so if you would like to still donate to this or any of our programs I'm sure Mrs. Nancy will take it. I look forward to working and doing more with you in the years to come.

For GOD and Country,

Angie Baughman, Chairman

EDUCATION



What a busy year, we have worked on many projects: Give 10 to Education, Education Week, Veterans in the classroom programs, Supported Veterans Associations, assisted needy students and awarded great scholarships.

It has been a learning experience for me and a pleasure to work with you. Together, we will continue to bring the needs of our veterans and our military and their families in the education area.

You will soon be turning your attention to next year's responsibilities. I know that our Units will continue to display our SPIRIT and devotion to EDUCATING the children of our Veterans, our military children and our community children.

See you at State Convention!

For God and Country,

June Laws, Chairman

GIRLS STATE



Hello Ladies!! We have been working very hard this year getting ready for Girls State. Magnolia Girls State will take place June 6-12, 2015 at Mississippi State University. The new website for Girls State is www.magnoliagirlsstate.org. All information pertaining to this year's session will be found on this website. Remember the deadline to apply for Girls State is MAY 10. Monies should be mailed to Nancy by this date. If you have any questions regarding Girls State please send me an email at gsdir2014@gmail.com.

Remember units to get your Sponsor/Patron forms to Nancy by this deadline as well. Just a reminder, a SPONSOR is the unit that will SUPPORT the delegate prepare for her experience at Girls State; a PATRON is the person, group or business that PAYS for the delegate to attend. We know that all delegates will not be funded through the units but every delegate must be in sponsored with someone from their local unit. The Girls State staff is willing to help when necessary as well. We understand there is not always an active unit nearby.

The delegates will be doing something very exciting this year. As the community service project this year we have decided to put together "WE CARE" packages. Each delegate is asked to bring the following items to create a "care" package to be sent to our veterans in our local VA Hospitals and Nursing Homes. Tissue, Shampoo, Conditioner, Wet Wipes, Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Socks, Lotion, Germ X. If you would like to help this cause or know someone outside of the state facilities that could benefit, please email me ASAP.

Thank you to all the members and units that help make Girls State successful each year.

For God, Country, and our Veterans,

Brooke Cullen Smith, 2015 Girls State Director



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

During the month of March, I asked each Unit, at your monthly meeting, to focus on those members who have not paid their renewal for 2015. Many congrats to Corinth Unit 6, our March Membership Madness winner of the Preamble Banner.

Our April winner will be announced soon, once all the figures are crunched!

Stay tuned!

Please continue our Renewal Campaign for the month of May, as we've been doing!

- The May campaign list of renewals is due to me by June 10.
- The unit with the highest percentage of renewals submitted for May will receive a *History Book Cover, with the Unit's name embossed.*
- The April and May prizes will be presented to the winning Units at State Convention in July.

I would be very remiss if I didn't **CONGRATULATE DISTRICT 6 for being our first district to reach 100% goal.** Great work and please accept our many thanks for your efforts. **Now, WHO'S NEXT!???**

Many, Many Thanks to all of those units who are continuing to turn in membership and working the program. Your efforts are most appreciated, believe me! Mississippi is still in the top ten, as far as our numeric goal, and in the top 20 for renewals and rejoins.

If we continue our good progress, we all will be saying, **BEEP, BEEP, OUTTA THE WAY, MISSISSIPPI COMIN' THRU!!**

For God and Country,

Angela Kilcrease, Chairman



TIPS TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP

Have a warm and welcoming attitude

A warm and welcoming attitude translates into a warm and welcoming unit. Members need to take a pro-active approach in meeting and greeting potentially new members. Introduce yourself, take an interest in them, and introduce them to other members.

Make everything you do a "media event"

Take pictures at all your events and send it to your local newspapers. Newspapers are always looking for items of local interest.

Get to know your members

Make sure to get to know each member by name. A member needs to feel that she is a valued part of the unit, regardless of how many service hours are contributed.

Facebook! Have a designated member to post you unit's activities and news on Facebook

Get new members involved on committees and special projects

Ensure that members are aware of what your committees are, and encourage them to get involved. Everyone's contribution is needed. Use Facebook to feature the committees.

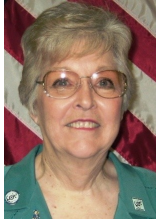
Have a membership contest!

Any member who brings in a new member OR RENEWAL during the year has their name put in a hat. The drawing is held in April, and the winner gets their membership dues for the upcoming year reduced by half! There can be various takes on this-maybe the member who brings in the most new members during the year gets a free membership for the following year.

Make your meetings FUN!

Try something light and fun! Try a "Who can wear the most ALA pins" night and have a prize, craft night, recipe night, etc.

PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY (THE PROGRAM)



Ladies, I need your reports as soon as possible as the May 1 deadline has past. I have been disappointed that I have not received many nominations for "Woman of the Year" or "Active Service by a Past President." So far there has been no nomination for the "Salute Servicewomen Award."

It seems there has been a difference in the deadline. I will accept nominations until May 15 as I was told this week end that was what one member saw in her directions. So get busy and send me some entries. Sorry for the mix-up but it will give you a few more days to get it to me.

Please look in your Plans of Action for directions and the cover page that needs to be with it is on page 7 in your Plans of Action. I am looking forward to a few more entrees.

Call me if you have any questions. 601-649-5463 My email is gjays@comcast.net. Thanks for your help.

For God and Country,

Glenda Wheelis, Chairman

PUBLIC RELATIONS



Greetings to everyone! The Southern Area Conference in Bay Springs was a great success. I hope that everyone is having an outstanding year with their Unit's activities. The deadline for reports to be submitted for Public Relations was May 1.

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. 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.

Ladies, remember to please send your local newspaper articles, flyers, brochures, running ads, and community calendars for the Department Pressbook.

For God and Country,

Charlotte Williams, Public Relations Chairman

PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT



We have our Laptop tickets still on sale, and that is going good.

All the units that have not done so yet, please mail your ticket money in and if you need any more, please let me know.

'Let's keep it going and make some money for the Special Project and we will have fun doing it.

Thanks again to all for your support.

Melissa Seward, Special Projects Chairman

Team Mississippi 2019



Kathy Dungan has received the “Nod” and will serve as National Children and Youth Chairman next year. After that, she will then serve as National VA&R Chairman, National Vice President, and National President in 2019.

Kathy is a member of Drane-Prine Unit 79 of Wesson Mississippi, and has been a member of the Auxiliary for 38 years. Kathy’s eligibility is through the service of her late father, a dedicated Legionnaire, who served in WWII in the U.S. Army. Her husband, William, is an educator, and they have one son, a beautiful daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren.

Kathy has served in numerous leadership roles at all levels. She served as Department President in 2002-2003, and Mississippi’s NEC in 2003-04. She served as district president for three years and as Mississippi Girls State Director for three years. Kathy held three Southern Division Chairmanships and one National Vice Chairmanship. Kathy has been honored to serve as a National Chairman for eight program committees.

She was employed by the Mississippi Supreme Court for almost 25 years, serving as Judicial Assistant to Supreme Court Justice Mike Randolph. Kathy is an active member of Little Bahala Baptist Church, having volunteered as church treasurer for more than 10 years, Youth Sunday School Teacher, and as a member of the widows’ ministry committee and planning committee.

Kathy’s love for God and Country is the guiding reason for her dedication to make a difference, believing in the Auxiliary’s motto: Service-Not Self.

Kathy has given me the honor of being her Steering Committee Chairman, along with Co-Chairman Mary Barrett for the Northern Area, Dee Starkey for the Central Area, and Mary Reid for the Southern Area. Joyce Porter will serve as Secretary, Glenda Wheelis as Treasurer, and Rose Blanchard as my Aide. Legionnaire members include Robert Gosa, Joe Kersh and Ronnie Bennett, SAL Jim Lawrence, Riders Steve Sweet and all of you—we are “TEAM MISSISSIPPI 2019.”

We have one fundraiser started—a Ca\$h Ba\$h \$100 Ticket. We will draw three tickets every month for 10 months starting October 1. The first ticket drawn will win \$200, second ticket \$300, and third ticket \$500. These winning tickets will be put back into the barrel, so you will have 30 chances to win. It’s up to you many people you have on your ticket.

Southern Area is working on a Antique Car Show, and the Legion Riders are working on a Poker run.

We need every unit to have fund raisers. Unit 112 has already committed to have several fundraisers. We will need door prizes and items for silent auctions. Please know that no expense will be paid out of the campaign fund without my permission.

Make all checks out to *Kathy Dungan 2019 Candidate Fund* send to Glenda or me.

We need to raise \$75,000 over the next three years, and I know we can do it. 2019 is the Auxiliary’s Centennial year and thanks to Kathy as 2019 National President, Mississippi has the opportunity to shine. This will be a historical time for the Auxiliary, State of Mississippi and Kathy. Let’s all work to make her Homecoming spectacular as the as the eyes of the Nation will be on us.

For God and Country,

June Laws
Steering Committee Chairman



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



FROM THE DEPT. SECRETARY



We surely missed many of you at the Southern and Northern Area Conferences. We loaded all those boxes of poppies you ordered and had to bring many of them back to Headquarters. We sure hate spending all that money on postage, but it looks like we will have to. Central Area Conference is in session on May 9 at Unit 112 in Jackson. We will have those poppies for the Units who ordered. Please try to pick them up if at all possible.

The office is percolating. We are in the middle of Girls State, the Area Conferences and preparing for the National President's visit.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: NATIONAL PRESIDENT JANET JEFFORD WILL ARRIVE IN JACKSON ON TUESDAY, MAY 12. SHE WILL BE VISITING THE G.V. "SONNY" MONTGOMERY VETERANS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON. ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, MS. JEFFORD WILL BE THE GUEST OF HOVIOUS-GRAYSON UNIT 112 IN JACKSON FOR A LUNCHEON AND MEET & GREET AT 11:00 A.M.

PLEASE MAKE AN EFFORT TO JOIN US IN WELCOMING NATIONAL PRESIDENT MJEFFORD TO MISSISSIPPI. AND YES, THE LEGIONNAIRES ARE ALSO INVITED. SHE WILL BE LEAVING JACKSON ON WEDNESDAY AFTER HER VERY LIMITED VISIT.

State Convention is almost upon us. President Mary is planning another fun-filled and informative conference. You don't want to miss it. You might also want to make sure your Unit has 100% membership. She has worked so hard for us. We need to show our gratitude by reaching our membership goal.

Lovin' you all and my country,

Nancy Sanders, Dept. Secretary/Treasurer

**NATIONAL PRESIDENT
JANET JEFFORDS**

VISITS MISSISSIPPI

MAY 12-13, 2015

**MEET AND GREET LUNCHEON
11 A.M.**

HOVIOUS-GRAYSON UNIT 112 IN JACKSON

ALL WELCOME!

