

Department of
Mississippi

Magnolia



AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY

Serving veterans, their families and their communities

Monthly
Newsletter

Nov. 2013



GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



I know that Education Week is in November, but here in Mississippi, October has offered several learning week-ends. Mission Training was offered in several states, and we had four ladies attend the one in Louisville, KY. A wealth of information was provided, and I believe everyone had a fun time, getting to meet and chat with members from other Departments.

We have had all three of our

Fall Conferences, and they have also been educational and fun. Mary Barrett, Dept. 2nd. V.P., did an excellent presentation of our programs, explaining the basics of each...and no mention of you-know-what from last year (pods).

Thanks to everyone that worked to make these Conferences successful and fun meetings. And of course the food was excellent. Thank you!

As the cooler weather sets in, it's a reminder that we have many homeless veterans and families that will need additional assistance from us, so please start making plans

for this. Warm clothing, blankets, food, and anything to keep them warm and safe, are needed. It's also a reminder of upcoming holidays. I'm sure no one needs me to tell you what should be done as I've seen your actions over the past years; just keep doing what you do best--taking care of our veterans, active military and families.

Do you still have your pinky painted blue? This is a promise to be nice and treat others the way you want to be treated. No one says you need to be best buds, just be nice, it really isn't as hard as you may think.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Veteran's Day, Nov. 11
- Biloxi VA Gift Shop, Dec. 2-3
- Mid-Year Progress Reports due to Dept. Chairmen, Dec. 1

If you see a scowl or frown, give them a smile; if you hear angry words, give a smile. I've been told many times that a smile is the best medicine you can give. Try it, you might even like the way it adds to your inner beauty.

For God and Country,

Rose Blanchard
Department President

1ST VICE PRESIDENT-PROGRAMS COORDINATOR



The fall conferences are behind us and the Plans of Action should be in every Unit.

We have tried to make the reporting easier this year and please be aware that our Mid-year reports are due to the chairmen by Dec. 1, 2013. I hope you all know who the chairmen are that you are reporting to. The chairmen are

very knowledgeable about their programs and are more than willing to help you with any questions you may have. Remember, these programs are the backbone of our Auxiliary and it starts with the Units.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are almost here. We will all be busy making sure our Veterans and their families are having a good Holiday. It is so hard to keep up with

everything, please, keep track of your hours, money you spend and how many Veterans you are helping. Turning in this information is what it takes to keep our Voice strong in Congress to help our Veterans.

The world is really changing right now and we all need to do our part to help. Hope you all are looking forward to the Holidays and will be blessed to be with family and friends..

We are hoping for 100% reporting, We know you can accomplish that with the forms in your Plans of Action. It is not hard to fill them out and send them in. Remember, each Unit can work on as many programs that you feel you can do, you do not have to do all of them.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

For God and Country,

Mary Barrett, 1st V. P.

2ND VICE PRESIDENT-VA&R CHAIRMAN



I have attended all three Fall Area Conferences, and our meetings were very informative. Mary Barrett our 2nd Vice and Program Chairman went over the Plans of Actions. I encourage each unit to fully read the VA&R Plan. Let's begin today to work our special programs. Please keep records of volunteers, hours and money this is very important for our mid-year and year end reports.

Remember Biloxi VA Gift Shop for Veterans is Dec. 23 and Dec. 9 is Christmas Cheer. Jackson State Veterans Home party is December 11--any questions contact Melissa Seward. The Jackson VA Gift Shop is December 14. Thanks to all of our Department Reps and Deputies for all of your hard work. Please keep me informed of any other

upcoming events. Remember our mission is to support our VETERANS.

MONEY: We are in need of donations for the gift shop at the Biloxi VA, December 23 and Christmas Cheer December 9. Please send now to Nancy in the Department Office for proper credit to your unit.

What is going on in your Unit/District?

Just a reminder: Department Reps and Deputies, please email or call me with your upcoming events. 228-875-8384; Cell 228-365-6478; e-mail camatina@bellsouth.net.

Remember our mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support our Veterans.

WE DON'T MONKEY AROUND!!

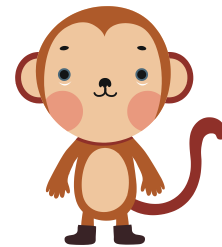
For God and Country,

Anita McAllister 2nd Vice

Don't Monkey Around with REPORTING!

All Mid-Year Reports are due to the Department Chairmen by Dec. 1, 2013.

Remember, you can use the provided form for each program in the Plans of Action to do your report...make a copy, fill it out and send it to the appropriate chairman.



FOR THE RECORD – DEPT. HISTORIAN



During the month of October, I have not put my brakes on. This writer attended a mission training conference in Louisville, Kentucky--"Developing the Future Grassroots Leaders in You."

The sessions were great and very well taught. The attendees were from many areas and states and offered a mixture of personalities, ideas and knowledge.

Now, we pause to focus on our responsibilities at hand. December is fast approaching and deadlines for making mid-winter reports are imminent.

Where are you on making your report? Remember we can't credit you for work if reports aren't submitted.

We also lose credibility if we don't turn in our reports.

Please send pictures of your activities for our scrapbook. It would help to talk to members who have been in the American Legion Auxiliary a long time to gather information even if they are inactive. Don't hesitate to dig out pass members for information and membership renewal also.

Now the chill of autumn is on and outside activity is beginning to cease, therefore this allows more time to do research on your unit and other important information about your unit members. So let us get busy and start researching and writing.

All about love,

For God and Country,

Eva Ford, Dept. Historian

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.

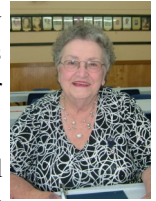
Mail to:

**Jackie Sibley
14654 Vidalia Road
Pass Christian, MS 39571**

NEWS FROM DEPT. CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

DEPARTMENT SUPPORT FUND

Well, its time to let you know “It’s Carnival Time.” Our lady candidates are working hard, and I wish I could say we were working as a Family, but I can’t. Not one Legionnaire or Rider has stepped up and only one SAL has shown interest but has not sent in his form. The Ball will go on—we’ll find a way—maybe we will have their husbands as escorts.



It’s not too late to get started as you have until Dec. 14 to raise money: Ticket Sales, Raffles, Poker Run, and Ad Sales. I can hardly wait to see who the big winner will be. It’s a secret! The candidates have raffles and other things going. If you can’t run yourself support the candidate of your choice.

Two Districts are having a bit of a challenge so you might want to support your District. One District has two candidates, you might want to support one of them. The Candidates are District 1 Diane Belue of Unit 26, District 3 Shirley Turner-Lamb of Unit 165, District 6 Eva Ford of Unit 3 and Dee Starkey of Unit 112 and District 9 Daniela Miller of Unit 160. Please contact them to see what you can do to help them win. If you prefer not to assist a candidate, then I need you to know that the committee has a Raffle and Poker Run that you can take part in with your Unit. The poker hands are \$5.00 each. If someone you know wants a hand, put the name, Unit number and contact phone number on a plain envelope, attach the money and turn it in to ME, not the office, as Nancy has enough to do. Candidates this goes for you too. **SEND MONEY TO ME.** I will post it and send it to Nancy. The post will be sent to you so you will know exactly how much you raised to date.

Thanks to everyone who helped get candidates and thanks to the Candidates! Geaux Girls – “*Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler*”

Low Wilkerson

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER



Millions of families will celebrate Thanksgiving with all the trimmings, but in early America, days of Thanksgiving weren’t always about food.

George Washington Thanksgiving Proclamation stated “Then unite in most humbly offering our prayers, and beseech supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations, and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws....”

Our founding fathers paved the way for sound principles in respect to ALL mankind, the recognition in respect, personal strength and courage to admiration and honor truth and seek truth with the strength to hold it accountable and against prejudiced influence of unjust leadership.

We have a great opportunity to help make dreams come true. In our homes, churches, communities, and great organizations like the Auxiliary. Yes, it takes time, money, energy, and lots and lots of work. Where would we be if our forefathers had not risk it all to come to this great country. They took their dreams and with hard work, love for their follow man, a strong believe in God and the right to worship freely, made this the great nation it is today.

Remember:

A DREAM MAKER always helps. A DREAM MAKER always leaves the trail better than he found it.

A DREAM TAKER always steals and destroys and always leaves a broken trail.

WORRY looks around, SORRY looks back, and FAITH looks UP.

May you have a bless Thanksgiving, and remember the less fortune in your heart and prayers.

For God and Country,

Jackie Baughman, Dept. Chaplain

NEWS FROM DEPT. CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

AMERICANISM



The area conferences are over, and I'm sure everyone learned something. November should be "Veterans Month" instead of only one day, Nov. 11. Military men and women have sacrificed greatly for all American citizens to enjoy the freedoms of today. I'm sure units are planning different activities in their local communities.

Kosciusko and Attala County citizens/veterans have sponsored the "Aisle of Honor" where casket flags of deceased veterans are flown at the Kosciusko City Cemetery. It is a beautiful site from Martin Luther King Drive/35 Bypass, where approximately 350 flags rustle in the wind on the hillside. This momentous occasion occurs on Memorial and Veterans Day, everyone is invited. The program starts at 11:00 a.m. with a speaker.

Remember to thank all veterans, active and retired, for their service to the USA. American is the "Home of the Free, Because of the Brave."

Dates to remember: November 3rd, Daylight Savings Time, November 10th, Marine Corps established (1775), November 11th, Signing of WWI Armistice (1918) Veterans Day, November 21st, Grenada Campaign Ended (1983), and November 28th, Thanksgiving Day.

Trivia questions for November are (1) What does the men writers of "The Star-Spangled Banner," My Country Tis of Thee" and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, plus the man who most historians credit with making the first American Flag, have in common with each other? (2) What is the age requirement to become President of United States of America?

For God and Country,

Wendy Walters, Chairman

LEGISLATIVE



Hi!! Ladies!!

The Government Shutdown can happen again in January. Let your voice be heard up in DC. This time our veterans and servicemen could be impacted. Use the link provided to look up your state representatives; <http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>.

Now is a good time to send letters, emails and phone calls. If you need help with preparing a letter, email me at beverlyc@cableone.net. Visit the American Legion website at www.legion.org/legislature to find the latest information. Auxiliary volunteers can be heard in Washington. Let us continue to email, write or speak to our State Legislators for the benefit of our veterans.

Beverly Cottom, Chairman

LEADERSHIP

Over the last year or so, Nancy and I have been traveling the state, conducting District Leadership Workshops. We killed a lot of trees and provided you with some great "Mini-Workshop" ideas and hand-outs. I hope you are conducting some of these in your unit meetings and will REPORT all the wonderful things you have been doing to educate your members on our Auxiliary ways and means. I want lots of reports by Dec. 1 so I can have an excellent report to give to National!

Nancy and I are working on a special workshop for Mid-Winter Conference in Natchez. Stay tuned for more information next month!

Remember to continue working on Leadership Correspondence Courses. Never to late to take the test!

Angela Kilcrease and Nancy Sanders, Co-Chairmen

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



WE ARE SO CLOSE TO REACHING OUR 1ST MILESTONE OF 55% BY VETERANS DAY!! We only need 22 members to reach that goal at the publication of this newsletter!

So what do you think about that? Ladies, reaching our 55% has been a bit of a struggle. Remember, this is the EASY goal—it gets much tougher as we go along. I'm feeling POSITIVE we can do it, but it's going to take a lot of work and elbow grease to get it done. We must COMMIT right here and now to keep pushing and pulling our members to renew their dues...that's where our gold is right now. RENEW and REJOIN!

Remember last month I announced the winners of the 1st Unit to reach 100% challenge issued last month by Jackie Baughman, Dept. Chaplain and member of our new Bay Springs unit, was won by TWO of our newest units: Lucedale Unit 53 and Bay Springs 71 Each received \$100 for their unit treasury!

Well, our next membership incentive is coming to us, compliments of our State Commander of The American Legion, Angie Baughman, who has given the Department \$200 to be used for membership. Here's how it will go—each unit who reaches 100% and above by Mid-Winter Conference will have their unit placed in the hat for a chance at a \$200 prize. I want to have a full hat of unit names when it comes time for my platform report at Mid-Winter Conference on that Saturday in January. We're going to have a great program planned for you all to enjoy—it will be a barrel full of monkeys for sure!

For God and Country,

Angela Kilcrease, Chairman

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF MISSISSIPPI'S
100 PERCENT (PLUS!) UNITS!**

Corinth 207 (107.70%)	Nesbit 1990 (109.09%)	Grenada 35 (180%)	Tylertown 56 (101.24%)
Bay Springs 71 (133.34%)	Mendenhall 74 (145.46%)	Lucedale 53 (108.34%)	

As of 11/6/2013 report

55 PERCENT (PLUS!) UNITS!

Aberdeen 26	Tupelo 49	Fulton 51	New Albany 72	Baldwyn 130	Tishomingo 144
Calhoun City 50	Cleveland 165	Kosciusko 44	Ackerman 82	West Point 212	Forest 9
Carthage 210	Vicksburg 3	Canton 67	Jackson 91	McComb 14	Liberty 76
Wesson 79	Tylertown 120	Natchez 228	Laurel 11	Laurel 210	Hattiesburg 24
Ocean Springs 42	Waveland 77	Gulfport 119	Bay St. Louis 139	Petal 146	
Lakeshore 152	Pascagoula 160	Moss Point 243	Gautier/Vancleave 1992		

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE DISTRICTS
WHO REACHED 1st MILESTONE GOAL:**

**District 1: 57.38% District 4: 60.46% District 7: 70.41%
District 8: 81.20% and leading the pack!
District 9: 61.90%**

NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

Letter from Creative Arts Festival Participant from Mississippi:

I want to thank you very, very much for the donation that the American Legion Auxiliary made to help defray my travel cost to Reno, NV. It would have been a proud moment for me to represent the State of Mississippi at this prestigious event. Unfortunately, I came down with an attack of pancreatitis, which was caused by stones in the gall bladder, and I had to have the gall bladder removed surgically, also. I just came out of the hospital and was advised by my doctors not to travel anywhere for at least three weeks. I called Stephanie Torian a little while ago and asked her to spread the word about my not being able to attend the Festival. The check you sent to Milton had already been deposited while I was in the hospital so I will have to write you a new check for \$845.00. Please advise how I should make the check out and where I should send it. Again, thank you for the kind gesture.

Sincerely,

Wolf Kiessling

Note to Contributing Units: As you can see, Mr. Keissling did not going to Reno. The refund check was deposited in the Camp Shelby Chaplains Fund and can be refunded to the units who donated upon their request. Otherwise, the monies contributed will remain for our use in the Camp Shelby Fund, and you should report the donation on the National Security Report.

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES



Happy November!!

I hope all the Junior Activities have been going well in your Units. Please share your activities and praise your girls on the Department of Mississippi Juniors Activities Facebook page. I know that parades are fast coming up, share what your girls are doing.

The patch for November is the VA & R Patch, I hope you all are working with your girls. You can find patch information on <https://www.alaforveterans.org/Programs/Junior-Member-Activities/>

Veterans Day is also coming up and I am sure Posts/Units have activities planned. Please include your Junior Girls in your activities. The girls need to be involved and volunteer right alongside of you. This is where they will get experience in volunteering to serve our Veterans and gain positive volunteer experiences that instill the ideals of the Auxiliary.

Keep up the good work!!

Penny Press, Chairman

PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT

Our Department President Rose has chosen Camp Shelby Chaplain's Project and National ALA Veterans Emergency Fund as her special projects this year. We will give National 25% of the money RAISED and 75% will go to the Camp Shelby Chaplain's Project for our Mississippi Veterans and their families. In the near future, our soldiers will be coming home, and they will need our help.

We had our calendars (\$10 each) at all the Area Conferences this fall. They really turned out great. I want to thank everyone for the great pictures they sent in and for being so patient with me taking their pictures. Also Impact Printing in Bay Springs and Dept. President Rose for her assistance. All the units were great about taking calendars to sell. I should have some dollar amounts for the next Newsletter. Again thank you for your support.

NEED CHEESE AND CRACKER DONATIONS FOR OUR WINE AND CHEESE AND KAREOKE FUNDRAISING PARTY AT MID-WINTER...PLEASE BRING SOME TO MID-WINTER TO CONTRIBUTE!

We will have raffle tickets on a large red pottery bowl donated by Kudzu Pottery and a beautiful monkey baby quilt donated by Madelyn Vuncannon. Also bring your change--Lil Ms Monk will be there, and she's always hungry. Don't forget your dollars, either! I will have my pinned on as a reminder (I take checks, too).

I know with your support and as a team we can make a difference for our Veterans and their families.

June Laws, Chairman



DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

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Jackson, MS 39212

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

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

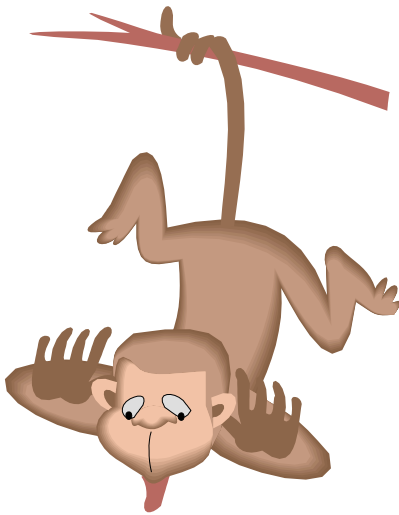
WWW.MISSALA.COM

JOIN OUR GROUP ON FACEBOOK



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MISSISSIPPI

ALSO JOIN: ALA SOUTHERN DIVISION



FROM THE DEPT. SECRETARY



Greetings from the Department!

Greetings and happy Fall! Now that all three fall conferences are finished, the Plans of Action are at this time being mailed to those who did not attend. Expect them by the time you receive your newsletter. We also hope you will enjoy the new format (or old format) of the Plans of Action. Thank you to those who helped put this POA together so quickly.

I checked to see if you units were filing your tax reports and was disappointed to see so many not filed. So—I filed about 45 tax reports for various units and sent you your receipts—Happy Holidays!

We have received the 2014 PUFL check from National. As soon as we can get the POA's and this newsletter mailed, we will begin writing checks to the units who have PUFL members.

The American Legion Family calendar being sold for the President's Special Project is really awesome! I think I was the first one at Southern Area Conference to purchase one! Also remember to participate in the Mardi Gras activities coming up at Midwinter Conference. Tickets, advertisements for the program, and donations are now available and being accepted. Vote for your favorite candidate for Mardi Gras Queen and King with your donation, ad or ticket purchase (I had to put in my two cents worth to our Department funds, you know).

As this Department Headquarters is already gearing up in preparation of Midwinter Conference at the Grand Hotel in Natchez, make your reservations now! In closing, please join us in the spirit of the Auxiliary Preamble, remember that we promote "service not self", remember the Gold Rule, and remember that we all are in this organization for the same purpose – to honor our veteran! We don't *monkey around* when it comes to our God and Country, our programs and our service to The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary.

Have a very family-oriented Thanksgiving and grab all the love you can get from each member. Remember our homeless veterans while you are at it.

P.S. Enclosed in this newsletter is the Americanism Essay Contest application which needs to be included in your POA.

For God and Country I remain,

Nancy Sanders, Dept. Secretary/Treasurer

Don't Monkey Around!