

Department of  
Mississippi

*Magnolia*



AMERICAN LEGION  
AUXILIARY

*Serving veterans, their families and their communities*

Monthly  
Newsletter

Nov. 2015



## GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



What beautiful days we have been having. Our weather has been just perfect, and our Butterflies are flying. We are so blessed this year. This is the time to get outdoors. We have just had Cruising the Coast, fall festivals are going on every weekend, and Veterans Day is coming up. This is the time to mingle and, if possible, set up a table and share what we are

doing in our organization. We need to promote “Who We Are and What We Do.” Have information with you and always have membership applications. Share with them the locations of other Posts, so they may select the one best for them. Remember “Service, Not Self.”

The SAC was held October 17<sup>th</sup> at Hattiesburg Unit/Post 24. As usual, we enjoyed great food and fellowship. At the joint session, the entire group joined in singing the National Anthem—we will keep practicing!! Very touching. Attendance was great and entertainment was a Crazy Hat Contest won by Mary Lyles. On the serious

side, our Program Chairmen/Committee members did a great job on their Elevator Speeches.

Our POAs have been completed, and you will receive them at the NAC and CAC. (The Southern Area attendees have received theirs). Please use it and share with your members. Reports are very important—so please REPORT. We want you to be rewarded at the State and National levels. Hope to see all of you at the conferences in your area.

We have had great turnouts for our Unit Retreats! We hope those who have

attended have taken back a lot of information that will be helpful for their members.

Mid-Winter Conference (Jan. 28-31, 2016) will be here before we know it. We need you to help us get as many BUTTERFLIES as possible to attend. We are going to have entertainment, fun and a lot of information to carry back to your units.

We have been told that the Grand Hotel is sold out, but the Hampton Inn may be available (601-446-6770), and there are other hotels in the area.

*President's Message continued on Page 2*

## 1ST VICE PRESIDENT-PROGRAMS COORDINATOR



Time has arrived for plan of actions which has been delivered and in the process of being implemented. It is very important for each of us to listen, observe, memorize, and apply. If something is vague, please call for clarity if you do not know, we will guide you through the next step. Put your pride on the back burner, remember this not about self, it's all about our veterans. Read your plan of action, once for information, twice for understanding, and third for comprehension.

Remember your reports are due December 1<sup>st</sup>. Please do not forget to send your reports in. Thank you in advance. I'm looking forward to reading all the good news of what you are doing. Due dates for all activities/reports are included in your Plan of Actions or call me/someone to get you on track. We have too much at stake to fail. December is less than four weeks away. How much we accomplished, will reflect in our reports at mid-year.

The leadership workshops are available for each and everyone. Some information you may already know whereas there is always something you have missed or forgotten, huh! We are human and capable of forgetting. Don't forget our veteran as the year end slowly approaches. The holidays are very depressing sometimes for our veterans; therefore we need to start planning for those moments in time as they arrive. I concur with the president; we must work together if we are going to fly with her.

God bless each of you and God bless America.

*Eva Ford, 1st Vice President*

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Assessments have been mailed out-please mail in as soon as possible. These funds support our Christmas Cheer and Christmas Gift Shops for our veterans. Donations and volunteers are always needed and welcome. The Biloxi VA Gift Shop is Nov. 30-Dec.1 and Christmas Cheer is Dec 9. The VA in Jackson will be having its Christmas Gift Shop on Saturday, Dec. 12, in Montgomery Hall at 8:00 a.m. (set-up time). Donations of gifts or money are appreciated for these important events. If you know of other programs please let us know so that we may pass it on.

Please be generous to all of the fundraising projects that we have going this year. Keep Smiling, Fly with me and Goodwill we will see.

For God and Country,

*Anita McAllister, Department President*

## 2ND VICE PRESIDENT-VA&R CHAIRMAN



I hope you are enjoying this cooler weather. It's a perfect time to get out and visit our Veterans in the VA hospitals & nursing homes. Some of these Veterans don't have anyone to visit them so go and make their day by spending an hour with them, listening to their adventures. Plan now to attend the Christmas Cheer and other

holiday events hosted by our Units. This is a great time to share ideas and visit with all of you ladies who do such a great job for our Veterans.

The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival will be in Jackson, MS, in October 2016. You may say that's a year away, and it is, BUT we need to work now on this big event since we, The American Legion Auxiliary, are a major part of this. Please spread the word...we will need everyone's help.

Mid-Year Reports are due to me by 1 December 2015, so please make every effort to get those in so I can forward my report in a timely manner.

Contact Info:

[chiefangie2013@gmail.com](mailto:chiefangie2013@gmail.com)

220 SCR 18-5, Bay Springs, MS 39422

OR 956 CR 17, Bay Springs, MS 39422

For God and Country,

*Angela Baughman*

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER – DEPT. CHAPLAIN



Each year, Americans families celebrate Thanksgiving holiday on the fourth Thursday of November. The traditional Thanksgiving foods include turkey, stuffing, gravy, potato salad, cornbread, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pies, pecan pies, sweet potato pies, and apple pies. President George Washington proclaimed Thursday, the 26th of November, 1789, a day of public thanksgiving and prayer devoted to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be. Reflecting American religious practice, Presidents and Congresses from the beginning of the republic have from time to time designated days of fasting and thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving Day invites us to reflect on the blessings we enjoy and the freedoms we cherish. As we gather with family and friends to take part in this uniquely American celebration, we give thanks for the extraordinary opportunities we have in a Nation of limitless possibilities, and we pay tribute to all those who defend our Union as members of our Armed Forces. Many generous folks use Thanksgiving as an opportunity to help the less fortunate. Some people volunteer to serve food at homeless shelters on Thanksgiving Day and others donate to shelters or participate in canned food drives. We have a great opportunity to help make dreams come true. In our homes, churches, communities, and great organizations like the Auxiliary. Indeed, it takes time, energy, and loads 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.

*Our Heavenly Father, thank You for Your everyday gifts to us. We have so much to be thankful for, not just on Thanksgiving Day, but each new day that you give us. Lord, we pray for peace in the world. Give your blessing, Lord to our veterans who have given so much for our freedom. We thank you for people who stand for truth and that which is right. Be with us, we pray. Amen*

*Charlotte Williams*

## GIRLS STATE

The 2016 Session of Magnolia Girls State is in the works! The Girls State Board will be accepting two or three university bids to host the session next summer, with our hope to have where and when set by Thanksgiving. We're also hoping to better educate our units on how to select good delegates, process their application and getting the delegates better prepared for the week-long session.

We're talking to our Dept. President about allowing us to present an hour-long workshop at Mid-Winter Conference in January. Wouldn't it be great for all of us to be on the same page!? We will distribute applications and brochures for the units' use at that time, so you'll have what you need to get started.

If you need any assistance or have questions, please shoot me an email at [angelakilcrease@bellsouth.net](mailto:angelakilcrease@bellsouth.net). The Girls State Committee/Board is ready and willing to help you.

For God and Country,

*Angela Kilcrease, Chairman*

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Fall is in the air and so is cooler weather. Let us remember to keep our Children and Youth warm by donating coats, socks, and gloves to the needy kids in our communities.

Now I would like to thank Summer Morgan and Ethan Morgan from Unit 51 Fulton for doing a great deed. They both won the Americanism Essay Contest, and they donated their winnings to the Itawamba County Crossroads Ranch for disabled children. This is truly a good, kind deed and very unselfish of Summer and Ethan.

Again thank you for doing a great deed. Now there is a new program that the C&Y Program would like to promote, and it is called **Beads of Courage**. It gives children that are in the hospitals courage if they have cancer, brain injury, heart problems, burn victims etc. **Included in this newsletter (email distribution only as it is several pages long)** are the instructions on how to do it and the list of hospitals to send it to. Please read and help our children and youth find the courage they need to overcome their illness.

Thank you and may God bless our Children, Youth and America.

*Ruth Benson, Chairman*

## EDUCATION



Just got in some updates on some items that affect the Education Committee. The "Veterans in the Classroom" will be called "Veterans in Community Schools." This title more accurately covers things such as volunteering in various ways in addition to single classroom programs. We are encouraged to tutor, share flag education etiquette, assist with field trips, etc and be a visible presence in our schools. The new title will encompass "all" of those activities rather than just appear to focus on single classroom presentations.

The American Legion still has the "School Medal Award Program" and has updated and modernized brochure for it. The American Legion has developed an "Education Development Guide" which will be published sometime in November.

There will be a new "on-line" process for Samsung applicants. Look for further details soon. Veterans Day is November 11, and please don't forget also November 16-20<sup>th</sup> is American Education Week.

*June Laws, Chairman*

## LEADERSHIP



We had a great day of learning in District VI on Oct. 10 at Unit 112 in Jackson. District President Mattie Harris and the most gracious hosts of Unit 112 gave us a great gathering of members—who had lots of questions, which we love! Thank you all for a great day—many thanks to Dept. Secretary for her instruction on how to file unit taxes and Dept. Membership Chairman Diane Belue for her membership program. Great job!

District 8 held their Units Retreat on Saturday, Oct. 24, in Bay Springs. Leadership Committee Member Diane Belue led the way, ably assisted by Dept. President Anita McAllister. Thank you to those who attended and hosted.

Plans are in the works for a workshop at Mid-Winter Conference on the topic of Girls State and how your unit can become more involved and how to select and process your delegates. Stay tuned for more info in the December newsletter.

For God and Country,

*Angela Kilcrease, Chairman*

## PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY



### UNIT MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Promote the Auxiliary Unit Member of the Year. She is chosen for her accomplishments in her own Unit during the current year. She will not attain any other office outside of the Unit. She will give unselfishly of her time and talents with little or no recognition.

Units of the American Legion Auxiliary all have hard working dedicated members who give of their time and talent to further the aims and purposes of our organization, but have no desire to serve beyond the Unit level. In order to recognize such dedicated service each Unit may select one candidate for Unit Member of the Year in their Department. Each Department will select the Unit Member of the Year for that Department who will be honored at the National Convention.

This award recognizes the contributions made by a valued unit member. Select one member to compete for department recognition by researching the criteria with in your unit and making a nomination; honor her within your unit. Also honor the member for significant contributions made to her unit.

Requirements:

1. Only senior members in good standing are eligible.
2. Current membership dues must be paid.
3. The member cannot have obtained an elected or appointed leadership role higher than that of unit president.
4. Selection is based on accomplishments, activities, etc. for the current administrative year.
5. Years of membership are not a part of the criteria; the nominee may be a new member.
6. All entry forms, including a narrative, must be completed and submitted by the deadline. The unit President and secretary must sign the entry form unless the nominee is one of them, in which case a past unit president must sign the entry form.
7. Each department may submit only one department winner.
8. The winning entry from each unit should be postmarked by May 1, 2016 and sent to Chairman Glenda Wheelis.
9. Use an awards cover sheet.

I will post the awards cover sheet and more information on that later.

For God and Country,

*Glenda Wheelis, Chairman*

## MEMBERSHIP



867-that's how many dues we need to make the Nov. 11 Goal. 431-that's how far behind we are from where we were this time last year. 247-that's how many members we lost last year. We are definitely on a downward spiral with our membership. While those number are staggering, they are not impossible. We currently have 17 units with 0% turned in. We have 12 units that have turned in 5 or less members. We must work these renewals and it is going to take all of us to do it. Remember the old saying, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." Well, it is "GO TIME" for this department. I have seen this Department come from the bottom to the top in the past, so I know that we can do it. We can be a goal Department.

If we can meet our goal for November 11, we will receive \$250 for membership. That money, in turn will be used as incentives to the units during the year. We must work harder to reach this goal!

Remember, that any unit that reaches 100% by Dec. 31 will receive \$100 and a 100% flagpole ribbon from National. This is a great opportunity to get some money for your unit treasury. We already have 4 units that have met their 100% goal.

Also, don't forget that the Unit Membership Chairmen whose units reach 100% will receive a gift. I am still looking for that perfect gift, because I want it to be something special for their efforts. Let's not forget the promise dates. The units that reach each promise date will be in drawings at Mid-Winter and Convention for prizes to be used in their units. Nancy and I are tracking those units, as we reach the promise dates. The next promise date is 45% by Nov. 11.

We are all a part of this membership team. It is going to take all of us to reach our goals. I am not asking you to do this for me. I am asking you to do this for your units. Without members, the units will not survive and without units this Department will cease to exist.

For God and Country,

*Diane Belue, Membership Chairman*



### Congratulations to our 100 % Plus Units

Iuka 15  
West Point 212  
Philadelphia 138  
Lucedale 53

*"Every Time a Bell Rings, A Unit Gets Its Wings"*

## AMERICANISM



Some units have already gotten the Plans of Action, it's not much time left before Mid-Winter reports are due on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Please start getting essay cover sheet applications to the local schools, grandchildren, home-schooled students, etc.

For 2015-2016 the essays are due earlier on April 1<sup>st</sup> NO LATER. Last year, Class V had a National Winner, Wesley Fikes, from Hamilton, MS, sponsored by Unit #28 Aberdeen. This young man wrote an awesome essay and is now attending college. I would like to thank the four judges of the essay contest, Great Job and many thanks.

Dates to Remember: Nov 1<sup>st</sup> Daylight Savings Time Ends, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> Election Day, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> US Marine Corps Established (1775), Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> Signing of WWI Armistice (1918) & Veterans Day, Nov 21<sup>st</sup> Grenada Campaign Ended (1983), and Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Day.

Patriotic Quips: "Patriotism is the last refuge of scoundrels." written by Mark Twain and "When you see a rattlesnake poised to strike, you do not wait until he has struck before you crush him" written by Franklin D. Roosevelt. President Roosevelt is responsible for giving our cuddly toy bear the nickname "teddy" during his historic bear hunt in the Delta.

*Wendy Walters, Chairman*

## DEPARTMENT SUPPORT FUND



Hi Ladies, or should I say butterflies,

The Department Support Fund is beginning to take shape. We have two items for raffle: (1) a 60 quart cooker and (2) a gift basket full of items as, powder, lotions, bath salts, linen bath set, manicure set, wine, Bloody Mary mix, two different kinds of soap from Spain, and much, much more. When you see us, please stop and purchase raffle tickets.

For Mid-Winter Conference, we will have a butterfly parade, with four divisions, Department, District, Members, and Junior members. Everyone is to dress as a butterfly. The parade will be at reconvening of Auxiliary meeting on Saturday (1:00 p.m.). The butterflies will parade in the Legion meeting room with the largest amount of money collected, all proceeds going to the Department Support Fund, per group being the winner, with a prize going to the winner. For the participating district members, the money collected by the districts will be divided equally amount them. Example: only five districts participate. money divided among the five districts, not all nine districts.

Saturday night is game night. You will play games to win tickets, which you will place in bag in front of item or items you want to win. At present time, we have around 50 prizes. This should be a lot of fun!!!!!! So come out and enjoy yourself and bring plenty of MONEY.

Jackie Baughman, 956 CR 17, Bay Springs, MS  
E-mail [jbauxiliary@ymail.com](mailto:jbauxiliary@ymail.com) or call (601) 480-6415.

District Names at present time:

District One	Diane Belue	Monarch
District Two	Barbara Palmertree	
District Three	Mary Riddle	Great Purple Hairsteak
District Four	Joyce Porter	
District Five	Wendi Walters	Zebra Swallow Tail
District Six	Mattie Harris	Palamedes Swallow Tail
District Seven	Tibethia Smith	Queen Alexandra's Birdwing
District Eight	Peggy McCluskey	Metal Mark
District Nine	Dianell Miller	Peacock
Department	Jackie Baughman	Painted Lady

For God and Country,

*Jackie Baughman, Chairman*

## STEERING COMMITTEE



Well we have some good news !!!! Joe Kersh Post 1776 donated \$5000. Some bad news, a rumor is going around that Kathy has all of her money. This is not true if you hear the rumor please ask them to call me and let know how, I sure would rest a lot easier. We do have some commitments but not \$50,000. We need 35 more Cash Bash tickets sold before we can start drawing. This will give us 100 tickets sold and we can make some people very happy. Remember once we start we will draw for 10 months giving away \$10,000. If you need any ideas how to sell them, call Jackie Baughman at Bay Springs, she and her ladies have sold 12.

We still have some cook books they are great Christmas presents. Remember they are only \$20. I hope your unit is planning some fundraisers. Please let me know when and maybe Kathy are I can attend.

For God and Country,

*June Laws, 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!**

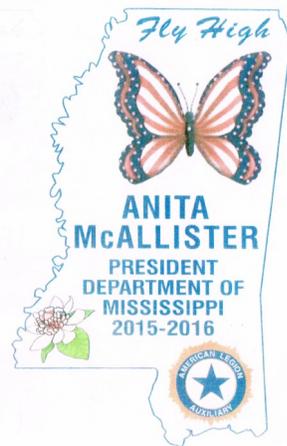
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JOIN OUR GROUP ON FACEBOOK



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MISSISSIPPI

ALSO JOIN: ALA SOUTHERN DIVISION



### THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

OUR CONDOLENCES TO  
DIANE LAWRENCE AND  
FAMILY FOR THE PASSING  
OF HER HUSBAND, JIM.

ALSO, KEEP DEPT.  
ADJUTANT JOHNNY BRACY  
IN YOUR PRAYERS FOR  
SPEEDY HEALING.

## FROM THE DEPT. SECRETARY



Greetings this beautiful Fall day. We are busy as usual getting Department work done, preparing for the last two Fall conferences and already preparing for Mid-Winter Conference. In this month's newsletter, we are sending out the Poppy order form. The prices are the same. Remember, we only order once a year so don't forget to make your order by December 15.

We are having a minor problem here at Headquarters. We are getting checks made payable to "American Legion Auxiliary Post (number)," "Auxiliary Membership," "Mississippi Department Membership," and even "Nancy Sanders, Secretary." **ALWAYS make your checks payable to either "American Legion Auxiliary," "ALAMS," or "ALA Dept. of MS." The bank will reject it if you don't have the correct organization on the payable line.**

Also, we are still getting membership applications that are incomplete. Please assist your new members filling out these applications. It only takes a few minutes to scan over their applications.

Last, and most important: If you have an officer who is supposed to be getting newsletters, membership or anything else from this Department, and the material is going to a past officer, please let us know so this can be corrected in our membership/unit program.

Hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving. Remember our homeless veterans. There are so many who go without food daily here in Mississippi.

For God and Country,

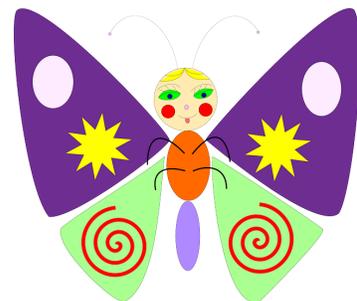
*Nancy Sanders, Dept. Secretary/Treasurer*

## DEPARTMENT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Central Area Conference, Nov. 7, Post 44 in Kosciusko**

**Northern Area Conference, Nov. 14, Post 32 in Greenville**

Be  
United  
Through  
Teaching  
Encouragement  
Restoring  
Family  
Lives  
Yearly



**Tibethia Smith  
District 7 President**