

Department of
Mississippi

Magnolia



AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY

Serving veterans, their families and their communities

Monthly
Newsletter

Oct. 2014

GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



*“Beep Beep,” On the Road
for our Veterans!*

Thank Goodness for Fall! We have had several District Workshops, and they have been informative and has given an extra opportunity to be with other Auxiliary Members. It is nice to get more information about our Great Organization and get to spend time with the Members that make it great. Our Special Thanks to our Leadership Team and their hard

work they are putting in the workshops. If you have not had your workshop and have any questions, please jot them down so you can get your answers when we come to your District. Please make plans to attend the workshops, they will help you have a more successful Unit and hopefully you will get some new ideas.

Our Fall Conferences will also be starting soon. The dates will be posted in this newsletter. I hope that each Unit is planning on attending the Fall Conferences, come out, meet your fellow members that are working with you to make this State so proud of all that they do. Our Conferences are all geared to help each Unit with everyday

activities. It is a special time of fellowship with new people that have the same interests as you.

Our sympathy goes out to our Auxiliary members who have lost loved ones. Glenda Wheelis's (one of our PDPs) husband, Jim, passed away. For her and all other members who have lost loved ones, please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Remember our Veterans in the upcoming holidays: Halloween, Veterans Day and just around the corner is Thanksgiving and Christmas. Please let me know what you are planning for these up-coming events. I would like to attend as many as I possibly can.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Northern Area Conference
Nov. 1, Aberdeen
Southern Area Conference
Nov. 8, Laurel
Central Area Conference
Dec. 6, Lake Tiak O'Khata

It has been a busy and exciting year so far. We are number 2 in membership and hope to be number one again this year. Please remember to get your renewals in. Keep our existing members involved and make sure we keep them informed as to what is going on. Communicate! “Beep Beep” and Beep Prepared.

For God and Country,

Mary Barrett

1ST VICE PRESIDENT-PROGRAMS COORDINATOR



**Hello to our
Committee
Chairmen
and
Committee
Members!**

I am sure you all have a copy of the Plans of Action. As you know by now, you can download the Plans of Actions and at the District workshops you will get a hard copy. I am

sure you all have contacted your District Presidents and/or Vice Presidents to see if all the units have their Plans of Actions, what they have been doing and if you can help in any way.

The leadership workshops have had great attendance, and they have given great feedback. Our Leadership Team is working hard to get information out to all the units.

Remember Mid-Winter reports are due by Dec. 1, 2014. Please let's work together and help each other so we can have a wonderful year of reports, and we will BEEP BEEP PREPARED.

Feel free to call me at any time, and I thank all of you for working so hard and I am proud to be a member of our American Legion Auxiliary.

**KEEP SMILING AND
THINK HAPPY
THOUGHTS.** Beep Beep on
the Road for our
VETERANS.

For God and Country,

Anita McAllister

2ND VICE PRESIDENT-VA&R CHAIRMAN



Now that some of us have been exposed to information in training, we are ready to take our car out of park and hit the road. Time is approaching so rapidly. Some of us are meeting ourselves. That's good! Blow your horn when you pass. For those of you who have made contact with me with your schedule, I am looking forward to attending some of your events. For those of you, who are still working on your schedule, please forward as soon

as possible. Thank you.

We have in the past and will continue to insure happiness for our veterans. The holidays will soon be here and the thought of knowing any one of our veterans was left without, can and will be unacceptable. Even just writing a letter or just listening to his/her thoughts is important. It is important to have as many volunteers as we can get. We never have too many. Let's work to increase our volunteers if we can.

When is Stand Down in your area? What are some of the needs and sizes of veterans in your facilities? We can assist you

fulfilling their needs if we know what you need. Please make a list and send it to me. Let's load our wagons, hook up the mules and head down the road, "Beep! Beep! We may be late but we will be on time.

Remember our Veterans who need us come first.

Ya'll come; I'll meet you there. Call or email me anytime.

God Bless our Veterans and God Bless America,

Eva Ford, 2nd Vice

FOR THE RECORD – DEPT. HISTORIAN



How is your unit doing? Are you taking pictures and writing up all your activities? Have you ever heard "live and learn, die and forget it all?" What about learn from yesterday and live for today!!!! I believe we must strive to better ourselves, therefore, bettering out units. History is an ongoing process and we need to record it for future generations. Let's not have our ideas, thoughts, and most of all our hard work forgotten!!!

Besides your unit may just have the key to more membership,

better understanding of the true purpose of our organization, and constitution and by-laws or better yet how to build a better working relationship in our auxiliary, as well as, with the Legion and Sons, after all we are a FAMILY and desperately need to get along!! History can be a valuable key to us in our Legion family!!!

On a lighter note Halloween is coming, are your ghosts beginning to appear???? "BEEP PREPARED"

For God and Country,

Jackie Baughman, Dept. Historian

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER – DEPT. CHAPLAIN



Luke 19:13 King James Version (KJV)¹³

And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

What are we doing with our ten pounds? Are we saving it for fear of losing it or are we putting it to use? The smallest things make a big difference for someone in our lives so let's put our ten pounds to use and "Occupy."

Document all the little things your Unit does to make a difference in the lives around you and forward that information to your District and Department Officers. We need your help giving this information to our National representatives who are most times the only true voice for our Veterans.

Tina Hurst

thurst@wildblue.net

NEWS FROM DEPT. CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS



In 2013, the National Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules were revised for clarity and transparency, making the documents “user-friendly” and easier to understand. The national leadership has requested all departments and units review their Constitution & Bylaws and update them so they will conform to National’s.

Constitution & Bylaws can be intimidating, but they are necessary because they set out the rules and laws of our organization. They are our “governing documents,” and it is vital that they are kept current.

This year, your Department Constitution & Bylaws Committee will be revising our Department’s governing documents. The proposed revised documents will be presented and voted on by the delegation body at our State Convention in July 2015. If you are aware of something that needs to be addressed, changed or added to these documents, please let us know.

To help you understand why the revisions are necessary, listed below are some reasons the National organization updated these governing documents:

- Clarity and transparency, making information clearer so that members can understand.
- Provide more detail about the authority and process of the organization.
- Streamlined the document so that “like” information is together and understandable.
- Moved frequently modified sections to the Standing Rules, conforming to Internal Revenue Service’s regulatory expectations. Frequent changes to an organization’s C&Bs are viewed by the IRS as a sign of organization instability, which can prompt IRS audits.

When reviewing your Unit’s Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules, keep the following in mind:

Constitution: This is our organization’s incorporation statement; the reason we exist. It sets out our core governance structure, roles and purposes. It should rarely be changed.

Bylaws: They describe the relationships, rights and obligations of the members and officers. They provide management for the organization and should only be amended when it is critical to continue our purpose – every 10-15 years.

Standing Rules: Standing Rules include administration details of the organization, process/policy type things, and details about structure, committee makeup, and recurring governance events. Think of them as anything that needs to be flexible. They can be changed as often as needed.

Department Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules cannot be in conflict with National’s Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules. The same applies to Units. Your Unit Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules cannot be in conflict with our Department Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules or National’s documents.

The Plan of Action for Constitution & Bylaws provides information on what needs to be included in your Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules. It also provides a How-to sheet on “Guidelines for Writing Unit Standing Rules,” which lists samples of what to include in your Standing Rules. The Plan of Action is also on our Department website.

If you need assistance, or have questions regarding your Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules, please contact one of us on the Department Constitution & Bylaws Committee. We are here to help you.

For God and Country,

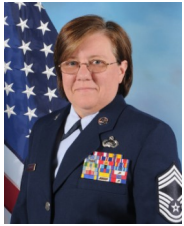
Kathy Dungan, Department Chairman

Diane Cantrell, Member

Brenda Newell, Member

Jeanette Ghetti, Parliamentarian

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND



Our first Area Meeting is fast approaching.....do you have news to share with other units? 1 November will be our first area meeting, and I'm anxious to hear how the Northern Area is doing on their AEF. Remember to ask the Legion members to help out, their spare change counts also. Unit AEF chairmen please inform your ladies on exactly what the AEF is and how it works.

The mid-year reports are due 1 December 2014 so please email or mail those to me so I can combine and give a report to President Mary Barrett.

Email: angela.m.baughman.mil@mail.mil or chiefangie2013@gmail.com Mailing address: 956 CR 17, Bay Springs, MS 39422.

For GOD and Country,

Angie Baughman, Chairman

LEADERSHIP



Our District Workshops have begun, and we have been successful to date! First on deck was District 1 on Sept. 13 and then District 2 on Sept. 20. We are very excited about these workshops and look forward to seeing many of members in those areas at the workshop.

- **District 9 is next on Saturday, Oct. 4, at Gautier-Vancleave Unit 1992.**
- **District 6 is Oct. 11 at Vicksburg Unit 213 (Kathy Dungan will lead this workshop.)**
- **NOTE: the Districts 4 & 5 Workshop on Oct. 18 is being moved to Winona Unit 52**
- **District 3 is Oct. 25 at Cleveland Unit 165**

The Plans of Action will be distributed, and we will show you how to best use them! We're going to talk about unit protocol, membership and the POA, among other things. Believe me, you don't want to miss it!

Talking about Plans of Action—our Department POA is over 100 pages—yep, 100 pages. Want some good advice? As it is on our Department Web site (www.missala.com) and on the home page, download that bad boy onto your desktop. You can then pull it open anytime you want, without printing a single page.

Then, if you have an iPad, Tablet or Laptop (or all, like me), put it on the desktop there as well for ready reading. When you come to workshops and department meetings where there is likely to NOT be access to internet, you can simply open it up and have it ready to use.

Next, if you are coming to District Workshop, please bring your copy of the Unit Handbook (latest edition has the poppy photo on the cover). We're going to talk about how to use this guide to your everyday advantage.

Also, bring a current copy of your Unit's Constitution and Bylaws!

The Leadership Team, with the support of our Department Officers, have made it our goal to educate you as much as we can about this great organization. Believe me, it's a lot of learning, but you CAN learn if the willingness is there. Trust me, too, when I tell you that it is so worth the effort. See you all at the District Workshops! Beep Beep Prepared!

For God and Country,

Angela Kilcrease, Chairman

Lou Wilkerson, Vice Chairman

**"If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously.
If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously.
And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.
- Romans 12:8 (NLT)**

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



Wow, Mississippi! We are rocking and rolling in Membership so far into the new administrative year. The National Report released Wednesday, Sept. 30, showed us again in 2nd place! Granted we're still in 1st Place for the 2013-2014 report—whoo hoo!

Our first Membership Milestone is looming before us—60% by Veterans Day—Nov. 11. We're now standing at 33.77% so I'd say we've got a ways to go. I see there are still way too many GOOSE EGG units. That means that zero members have been turned in. Now, that shouldn't be at this point of the year. District Presidents...reach out to your goose egg units and collect those golden eggs quickly!

We have a lot to do this year in membership—remember, membership is our lifeblood...it's that important.

I look forward to seeing you all soon and burning some rubber on our ROAD TO THE TOP—we can do this TOGETHER!

We all will be saying, **BEEP, BEEP, OUTTA THE WAY, MISSISSIPPI COMIN' THRU!!**

For God and Country,

Angela Kilcrease, Chairman

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES



So what have your Juniors done so far? Organized a can food drive for the Holidays? Singing at nursing homes? Created social media accounts? Working on badges? No matter the project or how hard they work our Juniors need one thing from us...Leadership.

Leadership can be shown in lots of ways. A simple pat on the back and saying "Hey great job, you are working hard!", a little encouragement "that is a great idea, let's make it happen together", or just simply showing support through participation. Whatever your way, lets show our Junior members why they should decide to join and make a difference. Simple tokens of appreciation will go a long way in a young ladies life.

You could be that person that inspires her to become a doctor or lets her know that being creative is invaluable. So I challenge each of you at your next meeting, be a leader! Make a difference in a child's life. Encourage.

For God and Country,

Maggie Caldwell, Chairman

AMERICANISM



I would like to apologize because there wasn't an Americanism column for September. After arriving home from National, I had a two week sinus sickness which landed me homebound. Needless to say my mind didn't function, because I did not think of the column until the newsletter was published. Units should be recording all activities for POW/MIA Day activities.

Plans of Action have been received. The changes in this year's POA are more informative and better written. If any unit should have questions on the Americanism program, please do not hesitate to call 662-674-5708 or email flowersandpups@aol.com.

Dates to remember: October 7th, (2001) Operation Enduring Freedom began in Afghanistan, October 13th, Columbus Day observed and (1775) US Navy established, October 24th, United Nations Day, October 31st, Halloween.

Trivia Questions: Who won the contest for writing of an American Creed? When? It exemplified "the best summary of the political faith in American."

For God and Country,

Wendy Walters, Chairman

EDUCATION



I received the following information from Ann Rehbein, National Education Vice Chairman. I thought it was great and wanted to share with you.

American Education Week – November 17-21, 2014

From our roots – a bit of history. Distressed that 25 percent of the country's World War 1 draftees were illiterate and 9 percent were physically unfit, representatives of the NEA and The American Legion met in 1919 to seek ways to generate public support for education. The first observance of American Education Week occurred Dec. 4-10, 1921, with the NEA and American Legion as the cosponsors.

Since then the American Legion Auxiliary and many educational groups have joined the program. The reasons have changed but The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary are still strong in seeking a better educational experience for today's youth.

For some great ideas on participating in American Education Week check the Education section of the National Plan of action at <https://www.alaforveterans.org/>. There is an excellent online tool kit at <http://www.nea.org/grants/47623.htm> and you can find 25 ideas for celebrating AEW as well as posters, fact sheets, public service announcements, proclamations and more at http://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/admin/admin501.shtml.

I hope this information is helpful I know it was for me.

Be sure to keep good records for your report due to me on Dec. 1, 2014!

For God and Country

June Laws, Chairman

PUBLIC RELATIONS



Beep! Beep! The goal of Public Relations is to promote, publicize, and re-educate the general public and our members about our core program values of serving Veterans and their families.

Ladies! I challenge you to increase electronic communication with members by achieving an increase in the number of e-mail addresses on the file with the Department of Mississippi.

Please email Department Secretary Nancy Sanders your email address, so she will have it on file and can get information to you quickly. Her email address is ALAMSHQ@att.net

Electronic communications refers to the modern methods and tools we use to communicate with each other. It allows us to participate in online social networks such as e-mail, discussion forums, and social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter. Electronic communication is a very fast and efficient method of getting messages across. Our Department has a Facebook page. Check it out! And while you are checking it out, be sure to check out our Department website at www.MISSALA.com and the National website at www.ALAforVeterans.org for resources, program information and much, much more!

During the year, send me copies of your newspaper articles, flyers and samples of your unit newsletters; I will include them in the Department Press Book.

Again, this committee is to promote, publicize, and re-educate the general public and our members about our core program values of serving Veterans and their families.

On the Road for our Veterans!

For God in Country,

Charlotte Williams, Chairman

DEPARTMENT SUPPORT FUND



By now, the District Presidents should have chosen the candidates from their district to run for the “Jewel of the Gala.” Also, by now each unit should be well on the way with their fundraisers. Right? Remember the goal for each District is \$1,000. This goal is very attainable, if each unit in the district participates.

Some fundraising ideas are raffles, spaghetti supper, bake sales, silent auction, or maybe a cake raffle at your next meeting. The possibilities are endless. Some of the smaller units may just want to make a donation, if fundraisers are not feasible for your unit and that is okay. We need every unit to participate, if we are going to meet this goal by Mid-Winter Conference. Please remember that the donations collected for the Department Support fund are to be sent directly to the Department, and please annotate on your check in the memo line “Department Support Fund,” so the money will be applied to the proper account.

There will also be raffles at the Area Conferences coming up. We have a nice afghan donated by Lou Wilkerson, a beautiful patriotic wreath donated by Debbie Watson, and a set of handmade Adirondack chairs donated by Diane Belue (via her fiancée’). We will also be selling tickets to the Gala at Mid-Winter at \$5.00 each.

Now, if we are successful in meeting our goal of \$7,000 by Mid-Winter, I have something special in mind for the Convention in July. This will be a celebration of sorts for all your hard work. Now, the only way we can celebrate is if we meet our goal of \$7,000. Let’s get busy and get the fundraising started.

I have provided a sample letter in this newsletter that I sent to all the units in District 1. You may revise to fit the units in your district.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or e-mail me at 662-231-4497/edbelue19@hotmail.com.

Diane Belue, Chairman

PRESIDENT’S SPECIAL PROJECT



Well, with Mid-Winter Conference coming right around the corner, please don’t forget that on Saturday night, January 24, we will be having our “Country Ho-Down“. We will also be raffling off the Happy Hour cooler. Tickets for all this will be available soon and we will be selling tickets at the upcoming Area Conferences.

Melissa Seward Chairman



Madam President Mary Barrett



DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

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E-mail: ALAMSHQ@att.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.MISSALA.COM

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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MISSISSIPPI

ALSO JOIN: ALA SOUTHERN DIVISION



FROM THE DEPT. SECRETARY



Greetings this GREAT Fall day! As I walk outside the War Memorial Building, I can smell Fall in the air and the Mississippi State Fair – the taffey, syrup cooking, hickory smoke – I can see it all from the hill and hear the excited screams of the kids on the rides. Awesome!

We are receiving Unit Assessments returns at headquarters every day. Thank you for being so prompt; HOWEVER, we aren't getting any poppy orders hardly. You still have a month or so. Just don't forget. Beginning October 1, many of you should be able to file your 990 e-cards. Don't forget that either!

For those of you plan to contribute to your local VA hospital for Christmas Cheer or Gift Shop, you need to send it in ASAP. They need to get the gifts purchased in time for our veterans to enjoy them during Christmas. If you wait until December to send in your donation, Gift Shop is the first week of December at both Biloxi and Jackson. You will be too late!

Just in case you don't read the calendar on Page 1 of this newsletter, our Fall Conferences are coming up. These conferences are very important and informative. Northern Area is in Aberdeen at Post 26, Southern Area is in Laurel at Post 11, and Central area is at Lake Tiak O Khata in Louisville!

This year it is our President's greatest wish that we learn to enjoy our work and each other as we give service to our veterans, active duty soldiers and their families. The joy of knowing you are among friends can make a big difference in your attitude toward your volunteer service. Let's all make that special effort to be friendly and civil to our peers in the Auxiliary and see what a difference we can make!

On the lighter side, this secretary is going to Hobby Lobby this weekend and begin my search for bling bling to put on my blue jeans and vest for Mid-Winter Conference. I bet I can shine with the majority of you in the bling contest at our western dance! Any competition out there????

Lovin' you all and my country,

Nancy Sanders, Dept. Secretary/Treasurer

BRAND NEW AUXILIARY SHIRTS ARE HERE!

The new shirts are blue with a collar and made of cool material. They will be available for purchase at the upcoming district workshops and the area conferences. We hope you will wear it with pride as often as you can, so the American Legion Family name will be visible around the state and not just for our own conventions and meetings.

**SAMPLE LETTER FROM THE DEPT. SUPPORT FUND—SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 7
FOR YOUR USE IN YOUR DISTRICT!**



American Legion Auxiliary
Daniel W. Bird Unit 26
523 Hwy 145 N.
Aberdeen, MS 39730

To all District 1 Units:

Our goal for this year's Department Support fund is to raise \$7,000.00. Each district has been given a goal of \$1,000.00 to raise for this fund.

At Mid-Winter Conference, there will be a "Jeans & Jewels Gala." Each district will have a candidate to run for Jewel of the Gala. The candidate for District 1 is Shawn White from Baldwyn 130. Each unit is asked to come up with a fundraiser and donate the proceeds from that fundraiser to support our candidate. The candidate from the district that raises the most money will be elected Jewel of the Gala.

In addition, each district will have a booth set up at the Gala to display how each unit in the district raised their money. Districts will have fun decorating their booths and showcasing the units. Please send pictures and any other materials used in promoting your fundraiser for this project to Diane Belue, 217 Mobile St., Aberdeen, MS 39730. Also send any donations to the Department and annotate on your check the Department Support fund, so the funds can be applied to the proper account.

The Department Support fund is important to all of us. It covers administrative procedures, (telephone expense, computer expense, postage, our secretary). Without this, our Department cannot function. Please encourage your units to participate. Our Department President Mary Barrett is from District 1. Let's show her how much we appreciate her service to the American Legion Auxiliary by supporting this fund.

Diane Belue
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