

Department of
Mississippi

Magnolia

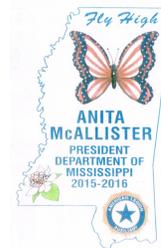


AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY

Serving veterans, their families and their communities

Monthly
Newsletter

Oct. 2015



GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



UP FRONT!! **MISSISSIPPI** was in the first row at the **NATIONAL CONVENTION in Baltimore**: Thanks to all of our American Legion Auxiliary members, whose hard work and working together made all of this possible.

Our Department won awards in AEF for being the top donor in the Southern Division, Public Relations award to Unit 77, two Silver Brigade awards to Unit 112 members, and

Membership (number eight in percentage of renew and rejoin and number two in numerical percentage). Jackie Baughman won the coveted Toomey Award for her Dept. History—a great achievement and honor, and one of our poppy posters placed overall best drawing in the Southern Division. Thank you, Mary Barrett, for a great National Convention in Baltimore, Maryland.

Our units have had their installations, and we are ready to give them our full support. They are going to FLY WITH ME- GOODWILL WE WILL SEE. Our Butterflies **will** fly.

The Dept. Boot Camp was a great success, and our Unit Retreats in districts are

underway. Please check with your District President and see when one is scheduled in your area. We need your input of what you want, as the workshops are for us to learn and work together. Our Area Conferences will be starting soon. Check for dates in your area. I am looking forward to a great year with our BUTTERFLIES.

Fund Raising: The Department Support Fund is being handled by Jackie Baughman and Unit 71. The President's Special Project (Veterans Creative Arts/district workshops) is being done by Dianell Miller, Pat Balduf, and Voncille Cunningham. 2019 National President Kathy Dungan (given the

nod) will also be fundraising so please give her your support and watch for information on those projects. We are all working for our Department of Mississippi, and it takes all of us to accomplish our goals.

Hope you all had a wonderful Labor Day with family and friends and continue to remember our Veterans and Military families. When you see a Veteran, just say THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE. Always remember our mission -Service not Self.

May God Bless and say a prayer for the sick and remember those we have lost.

For God and Country,

Anita McAllister

1ST VICE PRESIDENT-PROGRAMS COORDINATOR



My how time just moves right on away! So now that the vacation fun and planning stage is over, we are ready to get down to real business. December 1st is closer than you think. I am asking each unit to please get your reports in as soon as possible. Send your report in early (keep copies); this will avoid a rush later. So ladies get a tablet and document everything you do weekly, i.e., unit meetings, visits to nursing homes, or just did nothing. I promise you, you will be ready to prepare your mid-year report before December 1st. "Try it! You might just like it."

Ladies, we are down to the grits, and our numbers are low. We can't do anything without families and money. So let's sing like a bird and sting like a bee, so we can fly with Nita--Goodwill we will see. God bless this year that our membership may grow in numbers and strength to reach out to our veterans. God bless each of you and God bless America.

Eva Ford

Email: evil39183@yahoo.com

Telephone: 601-638-3086

2ND VICE PRESIDENT-VA&R CHAIRMAN



Greetings!
Unit will soon have our Department's Plans of Action and hopefully working the programs you can.

The VA&R program is an easy one...simply volunteer to go to one of our many state nursing homes or VA hospitals and visit with the brave men and women who sacrificed so much for us.

Remember also the Creative Arts Festival will be here in our great state next October, so please volunteer to help with this.

It takes all of us (not me or I) to get the job done! Small things to do at a hospital or home: play BINGO, have a Halloween party, Christmas party, and its football season – ask the residents (and you) to dress up in your favorite football team attire. HAVE FUN!

Contact Info:
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



FOR THE RECORD – DEPT. HISTORIAN



Many CONGRATS to Jackie Baughman, our 2014-2015 Department Historian for winning National Toomey Award for best Department History at National Convention. What an honor for our Department! Thank you, Jackie, for your hard work.

It is important for our officers to have all the information we can give them to deliver as support for our representatives in their visits to Washington D.C. and the only way to do that is for you all to let us know what you have been doing.

Many of your activities go unreported. I understand that we are all in this to support our veterans and not for praise...BUT reporting those activities helps us with statistics to back up requests from Congress to continue Veterans benefits.

Please, please let us know what you are doing. I would like to hear from anyone and everyone. Don't wait for report due dates send me information all during the year. You may email, text or mail the information to me anytime.

For God and Country,

Tina Hurst
thurst@wildblue.net 662-415-9938

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER – DEPT. CHAPLAIN



Hello ladies, the purpose of the Chaplain is to express, by word and action, our founding principle of service to God and Country. Encourage all units to celebrate diversity among people and faith. Provide spiritual and emotional guidance when it is wanted, desired, needed or requested, to always send dignity and respect to each occasion.

The Department Chaplain Plan of Action will provide us with information that will allow us to be a spiritual leader, to conduct all religious services, reconnect with the heart of God, the master of might and promote our founding father's desire to create one nation under God and to dignify the office that your example will be followed by all fellow members. Pray for the Auxiliary, its members and leaders, for success in carrying out our mission.

Remember to forward all articles and documents to your Department and District Officers. Mid Unit's mid-year reports are due December 1, 2015. Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Department Chaplain.

So proud to be an American,

Charlotte Williams



AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND



August 29 was the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. The effects of this storm were felt throughout our state, but as you all know, the coast cities bore the brunt. I, for one, am very thankful for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. It helped us at a very difficult time, as it did for many Mississippians. That is just one reason this program is special to me and I want others in dire situations to know they have somewhere to turn for support and help.

For several years, National has paid out more in assistance, than they have received in donations. Mississippi always goes above and beyond when there is a need, so I'm asking each unit to plan a special fundraiser specifically for AEF. Send your donations to the Department Secretary as soon as you receive it, so we will not be caught short when a need arises. Each unit should have a packet on hand that includes an AEF brochure and applications, with directions on how to apply. Feel free to contact me any time: ro62se@hotmail.com or 228-313-6952.

For GOD and Country,

Rose Blanchard, Chairman

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS



The American Legion adopted a wording change in the eligibility requirements for membership in the Auxiliary at the recent 2015 National Convention. In anticipation of this action, last year's C&B committee prepared for the change in our revised Constitution. We have simply removed the "Note" on page 1 and renumbered the pages in the index, which you can do to your copy if you have one.

Copies will be available on our website soon for free download, and hard copies will be available from Department Headquarters shortly for a nominal fee. In the meantime, if you want a copy, email a request to me diane.cantrell@netzero.net and I will be happy to email one to you.

May God keep on blessing America,

Diane Cantrell, Chairman

EDUCATION



The Education Program promotes the American Legion Auxiliary's role in providing quality Education for children and adults through classroom activities, literacy programs, scholarship promotion and support of education beyond high school, especially for military and veteran's children.

WHAT CAN YOU DO

- Enhance respect for the sacrifices of our military heroes among school children by scheduling Veterans in the Classroom programs at local schools.
- Provide information to the teacher hosting your program about the challenges facing today's Military families.
- Promote American Legion Auxiliary scholarships, and award local scholarships at the department and unit levels. National scholarship applications are available at www.ALForVeterans.org/Scdscholarships.
- Assign a member to communicate with school guidance counselors/teachers regarding scholarship applications.
- Build a relationship with your local schools focus attention on "Give 10 to Education" and American Education Week. Reach out to teachers, and ask how you can enhance their school curriculum. Find if there are any needy children and figure out what resources your unit can provide to the students.
- Assist and support veterans pursuing higher education and vocation education. Visit schools during American Education Week (November 17-21) make sure your school recognizes that you are doing this on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary and the veterans we honor. Please start making plans now November will be here before we know it.

June Laws, Chairman

LEADERSHIP



Many thanks to the Leadership Team for putting on the first of our Unit Retreats. I appreciate Mary Barrett, Diane Belue and Dept. President Anita McAllister for charging ahead and making our workshops a success.

We have another opportunity coming up for Auxiliary education on Oct. 10 at Unit 112 in Jackson. This will be District 6's Unit Retreat Workshop, but they have generously offered to host members from other units if you wish to attend. Just let Nancy know of those coming from your Unit so they can prepare for lunch that day.

Also, District 8 will hold their Units Retreat on Saturday, Oct. 24, in Bay Springs.

Some districts cancelled their Units Retreat but will be rescheduling them soon. Stay tuned...and keep learning!

For God and Country,

Angela Kilcrease, Chairman

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY



What is the Program, and why do we have it?

The mission of the Past Presidents Parley Committee is to utilize the experience and knowledge of past Auxiliary leaders for the training and encouragement of future Auxiliary leaders. Through the Past Presidents Parley committee, the women who have served as unit, department and national president can continue in active service to the Auxiliary to help ensure a strong leadership future for the organization.

What can we do?

- Promote and submit nominations for the Unit Member of the Year Award. This is a very special award that recognizes the contributions made by a valued unit member who has never held an office higher than unit president. It celebrates and recognizes those members who quietly work the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.
- Promote and submit nominations for the Salute to Service Women Award. The Past Presidents Parley will continue to recognize the military service of female service personnel, including the National Guard and Reserve components, representing each branch of service at the National Convention.
- Recognize Past Presidents for continued active Service. We will continue this award again this year. We want to recognize a past president that has went out of their way to mentor or help a new officer or member. All past presidents at all levels are encouraged to continue their support of the organization by accepting responsibility that the knowledge and wisdom as a past leader can make a difference in the development of one member. As past leaders, we can join the group as ambassadors for the organization knowing there is much information to share to make each level of the organization stronger and maintain its growth with positive actions.

Never forget that we all, as past presidents, need to mentor our new members and officers.

There will be more information in the Plans of Action; be sure and look up all instructions and you will find the cover sheet for each nomination in the front part of the Plans of Action.

For God and Country,

Glenda Wheelis, Chairman



AMERICANISM



I'm expecting a lot of work and reports from each unit this year. We must be inspirational to the younger generation, show them the true meaning of Patriotism, by example. Always, promote the "Pledge of Allegiances," in local schools, supplies, pencils, composition books, rules for students by participating in "Give 10" program.

Sponsor a Patriotic Coloring Contest for the lower grades, demonstrate the 13 folds of the Flag, and promote "Take a Vet to School Day," where students ask the Veterans questions. Last year, I attended the later and the students announced who in their families was a veteran. Another way to increase membership in local units.

Dates to Remember: October 7th, Afghanistan War Began, October 12th, Columbus Day observed, October 13th, US Navy established (1775), October 16th, National Boss Day, October 24th, United Nations Day, October 27th, Navy Day, and October 31st, Halloween.

Famous Quips: "One Flag, one land, one heart, One Nation, evermore" written by Oliver Wendell Holmes. "Patriotism is easy to understand in America, it means looking out for yourself by looking out for your Country" written by Calvin Coolidge.

For God and Country,

Wendy Walters, Chairman

STEERING COMMITTEE



At the Department Convention the statement was made that the Department of MS was supporting your candidate Kathy Dungun for National President 110%. Going by what was said at the Convention, we sent Cash Bash tickets to every unit, giving the entire Department the opportunity to financially support Kathy. We are attaching a letter and a Bio that needs to be sent to businesses and politicians in your area asking for donations. If you cannot print them out but know of businesses or politicians that we need to send the letter to, please send me the info and I will send the letters.

As most of you know we need to raise about \$75,000 to reach our goal and at this time we have no where near this amount. Now is the time to jump on the band wagon and show our united support for Mississippi's first National President. We need the entire Department's support. Please do not forget about the cash bash tickets, each unit having a fundraiser and our donation letter...Let's all give that 110%.

June Laws, Chairman

DEPARTMENT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Southern Area Conference, Oct. 17, Post 24 in Hattiesburg

Central Area Conference, Nov. 7, Post 112 in Jackson

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

6th District Units Retreat, Oct. 10, Post 112 in Jackson (10 a.m. start)

8th District Units Retreat, Oct. 24, Bay Springs (10 a.m. start)



DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

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Phone: 601.353.3681
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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

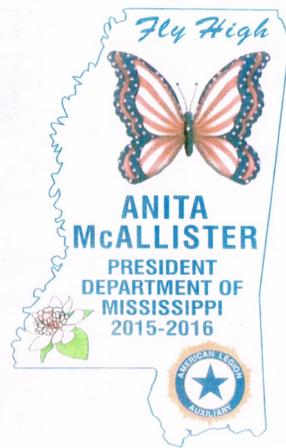
WWW.MISSALA.COM

JOIN OUR GROUP ON FACEBOOK



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MISSISSIPPI

ALSO JOIN: ALA SOUTHERN DIVISION



THANK YOU!

On behalf of the Jack Kilcrease family, thank you for the many emails, cards, phone calls and memorials.

We also appreciate those who came to his visitation and service.

His passing is a great loss to us all as he was true American Soldier and Hero.

Lest We Forget,

Angela Kilcrease

FROM THE DEPT. SECRETARY



We only lack a couple of programs completing the Plans of Action. Everything should be ready by fall conferences. The Department books have been audited and we are preparing our tax report to the IRS. This is a good opportunity to remind you that ***your unit should be filing your 990 e-card at this time.*** Remember, if you don't file for two consecutive years, the IRS will pull your tax exemption.

As this is my last year as your Department Secretary, it is necessary that the search committee for a Department Secretary/Treasurer begin requesting resumes for the position. If you are interested in, or know anyone someone who is interested in this position, please have them submit a resume to the Department of Mississippi, Post Office Box 1382, Jackson, MS 39215-1382. We need to seriously address this need as the year-end will be upon us before we know it. The applicant must know accounting, be computer literate, know something of the American Legion Auxiliary, and be prepared to work at Department Headquarters in the War Memorial Building in Jackson. It will take a good while to train a person for this position. Your help would be appreciated. For further information, please contact the Department at 601-353-3681.

As you will notice, attached is the 2015-2016 Unit Assessment (in snail mail copy to the unit only). Please remit your unit's assessment promptly. Part of the assessment pays your treasurer's bond and the rest of it either goes to our veteran facilities or pays our educational scholarships.

The Poppy order forms will be in your November newsletter. Please remember we only purchase what is ordered from our units. There will be NO orders made special this year.

One last request: In order to make it easy on you, the Department has, in the past, allowed you to email or call in your membership transmittals and pay by snail mail. The idea was great..... until membership chairmen began sending in duplicates, units thinking they emailed transmittals and didn't, and miscommunication between membership chairmen and treasurers, resulting in this office having to continuously bill units and listing why the units owe money, and explaining why we didn't receive your membership. Therefore, it saddens me to have to do this, but please send your membership via snail mail from now on, including your check for paid members. Also, some of you don't send your checks in for weeks after your transmittal is emailed. The Department can't float IOUs for that long. As our membership shrinks, so does our general fund. Mail-ins only would be appreciated. Thanks for your cooperation.

AT THE DISTRICT VI UNIT RETREAT ON OCTOBER 10, I WILL BE SHOWING HOW TO FILE THE 990 ECARDS SINCE UNIT 112 HAS WIFI. SINCE THE RESPONSIBILITY IS ON THE UNITS NOW TO FILE ANNUALLY, IT WOULD BE VERY RESPONSIBLE FOR YOU TO MAKE THE TRIP TO JACKSON ON OCTOBER 10 TO LEARN. THE PROCESS WILL BE SHOWN ON A BIG SCREEN SO THAT ALL CAN WATCH AT THE SAME TIME. THIS WILL PROBABLY BE THE ONLY TIME THIS YEAR I WILL BE ABLE TO OFFER THIS, SO PLEASE ATTEND AND ASK ALL THE QUESTIONS YOU WANT.

For God and Country,

Nancy Sanders, Dept. Secretary/Treasurer