

Department of
Mississippi

Magnolia



AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY

Serving veterans, their families and their communities

Monthly
Newsletter



April 2010

GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



So much to talk about...so little room!

The Area Conferences for the spring are this month. We have flyers for these conferences in this mailout, so be sure to check it out! We want big crowds. Remember, this is the time each unit gives a brief report on the year's activities. Our District Presidents are

working hard to make each conference a success and a learning experience for the attendees.

Each Unit should be represented!

During March, I was invited to several Legion Birthday parties. Thanks to Units 24, 139, 213, 44, 32, and 9 for allowing me to join your celebrations.

Janice Crosby and I visited Camp Shelby on March 17. We met with several troop support groups on base and got some great ideas on how we can support these men and women who are training for deployment.

Please refer to the enclosed

flyer on new ways we, the Auxiliary in Mississippi, can lend our support to the efforts ongoing at Camp Shelby.

May 1 is report day...just as important to us in the Department as April 15 is to the IRS. Yikes! But, it is not as painful, I hope. I'm asking each unit to get out their Plans of Action, go through each program and complete the report form. Send it to the appropriate Department Program Chairmen. Make sure they get it by May 1 as I'm pushing them for their reports to National. Let's share our BUZZ with National on all our work this year.

(Continued on Page 3)

CALENDAR OF
EVENTS

Spring Conferences!

- Northern Area Conference, April 10, Tupelo
- Southern Area Conference, April 17, Hattiesburg
- Central Area Conference, April 24, Jackson

2009-2010
DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

- ANGELA KILCREASE, PRESIDENT
- MARY LYLES, 1ST V. P.
- MARY RIED, 2ND V. P.
- SARAH EDWARDS, HISTORIAN
- ROSE BLANCHARD, CHAPLAIN
- NANCY SANDERS, NEC
- MADELINE VUNCANNON, ALT. NEC
- NANCY SANDERS, SECRETARY/TREASURER



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DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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1ST VICE PRESIDENT-MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN



ISN'T GREAT TO BE AN AMERICAN!

I'm still at home, recuperating, but getting better each day.

Now, just because I'm cooped up, doesn't mean you can stop working on membership! As of our last report on March 22, we were at 85%

of our 5050 Department goal. Now, we can do better than that!

We all have these contraptions called telephones, so let's get our membership lists out, pull in a few members to help, and call all these ladies who have not renewed their memberships. Volunteer to go pick up the check if the member is unable to get out.

It's up to us, and being the great team we are, we can pull together and make 100% in 2010!

Don't forget about signing up new members and get your exclusive, one of a kind Bee Pin. Thanks for your help to make our goal!

Mary Lyles, 1st Vice/
Membership Chairman



Remember that our Junior Girls are just flower buds who need a lot of tender cultivation and trimming in order to become beautiful blossoms in the garden of our future Auxiliary members.

2ND VICE PRESIDENT—JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP



Some warmer days are giving us some hopes that Spring will soon arrive. It has been a long, hard winter for us all, but with Spring, we see new signs of life. Soon flowers will be present again and the world will look brighter, that's what we are looking forward to. We need more flowers in our garden before the end of our Auxiliary year. Let's all give at least one real big push for memberships. Try setting up a

membership table at some community event to inform the public of what the Auxiliary is all about. So many ladies are totally unaware of what we do for our veterans, our service men and women, and for our community. Education will go a long way in convincing someone to join our great Auxiliary. I challenge each Unit to give this a try, and let's get to buzzing to bring the state of Mississippi up to 100% in membership.

Let's give our President Angela something to be proud of at

National Convention in August! She has worked so hard for us this year, so we should be able to do this for her as well as for ourselves.

Don and I just got back from Oregon, where we had a Celebration of Life for his father. We saw some old friends and met lots of people that were friends of Dad's. We put the house on the market, retrieved some of Don's childhood memories from the home.

(Continued on Page 4)



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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MISSISSIPPI

FOR THE RECORD - DEPT. HISTORIAN



Time certainly has flown by this year. It is April already, and we only have a few more weeks till our reports are due. I urge each Unit to send your reports in. I know all the Units have really worked hard this year and accomplished so much. I would hate to not report what a Unit has done because of no report. I will need the history report by May 1 because I will be sending a report to

National, and I want to be able to let them know what all we have accomplished this year. So, please send me your reports on time.

Our spring conferences dates have been set, and I look forward to seeing each Unit represented at your area conference. Please make an effort to send ladies from your Unit, because that is when we elect the District Officers for the next year.

Continue to keep a record of

what you do this year in pictures and articles for the newspaper. Be sure you send them on to the scrapbook committee. We want to present President Angela with a scrapbook full of all she has done this year, as well as what we have done.

I would like to wish each one of you a safe and blessed Easter, and I look forward to seeing you at the area conferences.

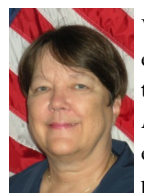
For God and Country,

Sarah Edwards

SCRIPTURE FOR THE MONTH

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16



We have a choice each day of life as to what ATTITUDE we embrace. We can play the one important card we have, and that is our ATTITUDE. Life is approximately 10% of what happens and 90% of how we react to it. So often, I hear "attitude is everything," and over the years, I've come to believe that it's true. When you have a positive

attitude, there is less stress, anger, animosity and other negative feelings. If you only think negative thoughts, it not only affects you, but everyone around you. Looking on the bright side of things puts a smile on your face and a spring in your step, and we all need that. Life is a true gift, so let's enjoy every minute.

This year has passed quickly, and we are now preparing for Spring Area Conferences. Unit

Presidents will be telling us all the things their Units have been doing, and Districts will be electing a officers to represent them. All members should try to attend their Conference. We are only a month away from reports being due to chairmen and officers. This information is very important, as President Angela, District Presidents, Officers, and Program Chairmen prepare to write their final Dept. reports.

(Continued on page 4)

NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

continued...from cover

Membership: You knew I would have to say something about it...I and other Dept. officers are working on starting new units in Brookhaven and Morton. Wouldn't it be great to institute three more Units to make 90 total Units in our Department for our 90th ALA Anniversary? If you know of a good Post who could use a Unit, please let me now right away. We need new Units to continue growing and reaching out into our communities.

Speaking of 90th Anniversary, see the enclosed article about ideas for a joint effort to celebrate this milestone in ALA history.

We've so much to do, ladies...Poppies to distribute, Cash Bash tickets to sell, donations to make (Fisher House, AEF, Creative Arts, USO—my special project) and so much more.

Please look over your Bee Sheet and Try This! Sheet to make sure your unit is following the plan. I look forward to receiving unit reports and reading of

your valuable work in our programs.

For God and Country,

Angela Kilcrease, President

CASH BASH DEPT. SUPPORT FUND

We have some very **busy bees** out there, selling tickets so they can earn the \$1,000 prize to the individual, Unit and Post who sells the most Cash Bash tickets.

So far, Pascagoula 160 is leading our Unit category, and Janice Cullum from Aberdeen is selling those tickets in the individual category.

Now, Post 56 in Tylertown, has stepped up to seek that \$1,000 prize for their coffers.

Thanks to these folks for selling those tickets. Others who are hustling include New Albany Unit 72 and Joyce Porter, to name a couple. **What about you?**

Have you purchased your ticket yet? You know you are going to, but we need you to do it today! Please see me at the

Area Conferences and bring your \$100.

We know that \$100 is a lot of money these days, but remember, you don't have to buy a \$100 ticket to **BEE** a winner. You can get together with your friends and split a ticket, or you can send me a check and buy part of a ticket. Tickets may be split in half – a quarter for \$25 – a fifth for \$20 or a tenth for \$10. I know that most of you spend a lot more than that when we sell raffle tickets at every meeting and conference.

Get your best salesmen **BUZZING** and **BEE** one of our winners. The drawing will **BEE** held at State Convention, and we will have a party, complete with food and prizes. To **BEE** part of the **BUZZ**, all you have to do is buy a ticket or a part of a ticket.

Remember, this project is for our Department Support Fund and for the USO. Please don't let us down. Contact me at 201 Bay Oaks Dr., Bay St. Louis, MS 39520 or 228.493.2582 or e-mail at Mawmaw5x@aol.com.

Low Wilkerson, Chairman

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

I looked out this morning, and my dogwood is almost in full bloom. How is your garden growing? April is Children & Youth month. Have you planned a program for the children? Work with the American Legion or SAL youth chairman in your Post as this is the month to focus on our future leaders of tomorrow.

You can go to your schools and find out if there are any children left behind due to one or both parents being deployed. The service men and women need to know that someone cares for their children, while they are serving their country.

April is also a good time to search for young people who are eligible for the Youth Hero Award or Good Deed Award ([see your Plans of Action](#)). When you find one, acknowledge them. They deserve it

Remember I need a report from your Unit by May 1. God bless and don't forget to go out and smell the roses.

For God and Country,

Rosemary Merriman, Chairman

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community Service is a vital part of our organization, and I know each and every one of our Units are working hard in our communities.

Let me encourage each Unit to send in a nominations for Junior and Senior Volunteer of the Year Awards. [See the Plans of Action for information](#). Let's not pass this opportunity by to recognize someone in our Units who go above and beyond. Nominations are due to me by May 1.

Also, please turn in your Unit's CS report to me by May 1. Send it to Mary Jane Ervin, 205 Marler St., Cleveland, MS 38732.

Keep working hard for our communities, and let them know we are a "Buzzing" group of women who CARE.

Mary Jane Ervin, Chairman

NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

LEADERSHIP

Happy Spring Everyone,

I hope each of you have a wonderful Easter this year. It is such a great time to attend church with your family and have those wonderful family gatherings. I love watching the young children hunt for eggs and enjoying our holiday meals. Most of all, let's remember the reason for this season.

I have heard from some members that they have taken the Leadership Course. And, I heard that Tylertown Unit 56 is giving the test to ten members at a time. They made ten sets and rotate them among their members.

Again, I urge each of you to take the time to take the Leadership course. It will provide a wealth of information about ALA to you. Please let me know if you take the course. Remember, there will be a drawing for a special prize at State Convention for all that have taken the test this year.

Good leadership brings vitality and respect to you and to our organization,

always remembering that **YOU ARE** the organization in the eyes of the public, thus you should be humble, use self-discipline, and reflect honesty in all of your endeavors.

The value of Leadership Training is to have greater coordination—**TO GET MORE DONE IN LESS TIME.** To gain a greater knowledge of our programs and to delegate duties effectively to others is the aim of ALA Leadership Training.

For God and Country,

Glenda Wheelis, Chairman

GIRLS STATE

SEND AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE GIRLS STATE PROGRAM BOOK.

SEND US GOOD DELEGATES.

TODAY, PLEASE!

Low Wilkerson, Director

DEPT. 2ND VICE CONTINUED

(from Page 2)

We could have taken week, but we only had one week there, after driving for four-and-a half days there and the same back. It was a rush trip, but we saw some beautiful country, drove through snow at Flagstaff and high winds in California.

Spring Conferences will be here soon, and hopefully we can turn in 100% memberships for all Units with just a little more effort and a little more BUZZZZ! YOU GO GIRLS!

For God and Country,

Mary Smith-Ried



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER CONTINUED

(from Page 2)

Unit Chaplain Reports are due to me by May 1. Please include the names of any deceased members, so they will be included in the Memorial Service at State Convention. If you have turned in names already, please include them on the report, so I can double-check my records.

Unit Prayer Books need to be turned in no later than 1 p.m., Friday, July 16 at State Convention, as they will be judged after our meeting is adjourned. If you will not be attending Convention, send your book with another member attending. If you don't have anyone to take it, you may send it to me at my home address.

The Department Prayer Book is progressing, but I could still have some empty pages. Have you sent yours? If you want, you may give it to me at your Conference, rather than mail it. This can be something that you have written, a copied prayer, story or a poem. Let's make Angela's book as special as she is.

As always, I ask that you keep our veterans and our military in your prayers.

For God and Country,

Rose Blanchard, Dept. Chaplain

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

All Auxiliary, Legion, SAL and Riders members that have been ill or that are recuperating from surgery.

The family of PDC Richard Clements who passed away recently.

PDC Lynn Rodgers whose brother passed away.

NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

PUBLIC RELATIONS

OK, ladies, now is the time...for the last reminder in the newsletter for you to complete and submit your annual report by May 1. I need to submit my report to National by June 1, 2010, and I want your information from which to gather material.

This doesn't mean that you are off the hook or that you should stop writing, publishing and clipping articles. There are many more opportunities out there to **buzz** around the communities and let them know what is happening in your Unit. Do continue to plant the seed about your involvement in your community. It is because of you that we remain a viable organization. You should let your presence be known and your voices be heard. Please remember that your articles need to include American Legion Auxiliary in its content.

Published articles are not the only means of getting out the word. A number of ways has been mentioned previously in this column. The most significant thing is that you be persistent in letting the public know about Auxiliary programs.

I hope you are busy gathering items for your own press books for competition in the Department contest. I am looking forward to seeing all of them.

Once again, don't forget to send in your reports. Thank you for your articles, your support and most of all, your dedication to the Auxiliary.

Hope to see you at Area conferences.

For God and Country,

Carolyn Tardy, Chairman

VA&R

REMINDER: Note that the Unit making

the largest donation to the Creative Arts Program will be recognized at State Convention. In order for the Units who do not have a large membership to compete, the recognition will be given for the most money contributed per member. For example, if your Unit donated \$50, and you have a total of 25 members, your donation per member would be \$2. There are many other awards listed in your Plans of Action.

Jo Tisbury reports that she has already begun to collect gift for this year's Christmas Gift Shop by shopping after holiday sales. She, along with all of our Representatives and Deputy Representatives, have done an excellent job this year. Representatives, please send me a short narrative on the activities that you have held at your facility. Units will report the funds contributed, so all I'll need from you is the "fun stuff".

Reports need to be in my hands by May 1. Please fill out the form in your Plans, along with a short narrative on what you have done for our Veterans since your last yearly report that was turned in May 2009. Anything before that cannot be counted. I hope the following will help you in filling out your reports. As always, what you do for a relative or get paid for cannot be included in your reports. Call me if I can help you in filling out VA reports.

Home Service hours include time spent sewing, knitting, cooking, shopping for materials, and supplies or other services performed by a volunteer in her own home. Field Service is what you do for a Veteran in your local nursing homes, State Veterans Homes, day care centers, hospice homes, homeless shelters, the Veterans own home or anywhere outside of your home and VA Medical Center. VA Medical Center Service is work done for Veterans in V.A. medical Centers which in our case includes Memphis, Jackson, and Biloxi.

Remember:

- You cannot claim anything on your report that you have been paid to do. (Yes, it happened last year.
- You cannot claim anything on your report that you have done for a relative. You have obligations to them.
- Anything you do for active military is claimed under National Security. The only exception is line 11 on your V.A. report form: V.A. Medical Centers Welcome Home Celebrations.

Brenda Newell, Chairman

EDUCATION

Hopefully you girls have been **buzzzzzzz** around your schools with the information on your Education projects! Please be sure to write down all of your projects for the year, so we can make Angela and the state of Mississippi look good on our reports.

I have received one report already. A special thanks to Mary Stepp with Pontotoc Unit 16!

It is not too late to pick up a project and "fly" with it!! The school year is almost over, but those children and teachers could still use some supplies.

The PTA National Teacher Appreciation Week is May 2-8. Here's a chance to do something for your Education program.

Also, there is time to have a "Give 10 to Education" program. That is a wonderful project, and the children and teachers appreciate the thoughtfulness of the Auxiliary members when they receive the supplies that are needed. Combine it with Teacher Appreciation Week!

Keep up the **buzzzzzzzzzz** for Education and hope to see you at the Area Conferences.

Janice Cullum, Chairman



DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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EMPOWERING WOMEN,
INSPIRING COMMUNITIES!

BEE SHEET ACTIVITIES

GIRLS STATE

- Increase number of qualified delegates from each unit for 2010 session, while not sacrificing the quality of the delegate sent.
- Assist Girls State program in maintaining the present registration fee by selling ads in your community to be placed in the official Girls State program.

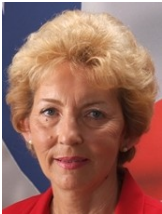
PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY

- Submit a Unit Member of the Year entry to the Department for consideration (to Dept. Chairman by May 1).
- Form an active Past Presidents Parley in each unit and encourage donations to PPP Nurses Scholarships.

FINANCE

- Form a Finance Committee in your Unit. Provide monthly report of finances to the membership at meeting.
- Get a unit EIN number and file Form 990 with IRS.

FROM THE DEPT. SECRETARY



Greetings from the Department!

This report finds the Department “knee deep” in poppies. All of them have been packaged and ready to be delivered at Spring Conferences. **PLEASE MAKE AN EFFORT TO ATTEND YOUR AREA CONFERENCE TO PICK UP YOUR POPPIES!** This will save the Department a lot of postage.

Also, this will be our first time to e-mail the newsletter to individuals who have requested same and not a hard copy. If any of you cannot receive your newsletter from the Department via e-mail attachment, please notify us immediately so that the problem can be fixed.

President Angela traveled with me to a very informative workshop hosted by District President Shirley Turner at Post 165 in Cleveland for the Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers of District III. We were very pleased at the turnout. We had three hours of intense information and instruction on the duties of the Treasurer and the new tax laws regarding non-profit organizations. Everyone seemed well pleased, and all Units had experienced

some of the problems that we touched on. If any other District Presidents would like a workshop on these subjects, please get with your Units and set up a day that all can attend. I will be glad to pack my portfolio and come to you. Sometimes a misunderstanding can cause big problems in the unit. Our aim is to fix it before it happens.

Don't forget to get your reports in to your Department Chairmen, wash your monetary donations through the Department to get proper credit, and call me if you would like a print-out of your unit's financial report at the Department for your year-end reports to the various Chairmen.

For God and Country,
I remain,

Nancy Sanders

P. S. *Let's get those membership in today...we're still standing tall as far as National's goal is concerned, but need a good push from each Unit to reach that magical 100% goal for the Department. It's going to take all us scratching and pulling to get those last renewals in—we can't stop now!*

NEC REPORT

I battled the snow and cold to travel to Washington, D.C., with President Angela, in order to represent Mississippi at the Awareness Assembly and proud to have done so. There are a few changes coming up – one in the very near future – that I thought you should be aware of for future reference. Beginning July 1, 2010, the VIM fee will be going up. If you are interested in a VIM membership, please take advantage of the present fee and sign up before July 1. Also, we will have a new name for our VIM membership beginning July 1. We will be the same as the Legionnaires – Paid Up For Life (PUFL).

I am also pleased to inform you that National will not be asking for an increase in membership dues for the next year; however, they will be asking for a \$5 increase for the year 2011-2012.

Thereafter, there is a plan to raise our membership 50 cents a year. Please be advised that your Mississippi representatives will be battling this on your behalf at National Convention.

We also visited the Hill and met with various Congressmen with our Legion representatives. We were all well received and felt that we were heard regarding our concerns on programs for the Legion families.

If you would like to discuss any of these subjects further, please call me at the Dept. Headquarters, and I will be happy to speak with you.

For God and Country,

Nancy Sanders, NEC

HONORARY JUNIOR PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In order to sponsor and provide activities for Juniors at the conferences and State Convention, we are starting a Department level "Junior Support Fund." A wonderful Auxiliary member of Unit 139, Bay St. Louis, has donated an NFL official Saints jacket to raffle at the upcoming Spring conferences and at State Convention in Vicksburg this summer. The drawing will be at the State Convention. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Please be ready to help us make this raffle a success. Enclosed are sheets of tickets for sale at your Post/Unit. Please mail them back with the proceeds, to Mrs. Nancy at the Department. If you need more tickets, please make a copy of this sheet.

There are only five months left of this year, and I am hoping to meet and/or hear from the Juniors of the Department of Mississippi. My e-mail address is smaries@att.net, and I would love to meet you. Remember my special project this year, the Cure for Cystic Fibrosis and bake, bake, bake. Oh yeah, sell, sell, sell, too.

Vicksburg will be great this summer. Juniors, don't miss it. We will have a work and study morning and a pool party all afternoon. Please plan to be there.

For God and Country,

Savannah Seals

Honorary Junior Dept. President

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Just a note to remind all Junior Chairpersons that I will need their reports to me by May 1. I MUST send reports to NATIONAL.

2009-2010 Junior Activities Patch Program

American Legion Auxiliary Junior members can be active participants of the organization with the 2009-2010 Patch Program. Regardless of where one lives, and whether she belongs to an active Junior group, Junior Auxiliary members are able to serve their communities, veterans and learn about patriotism, health, fitness and leadership through this program.

Each sheet explains the criteria and what a Junior member must do in order to earn her patches. When the activities are completed, an adult or Senior member must sign the form to verify a Junior has met the criteria.

For forms and information on the Patch Program, go to our Department Web site at www.missala.com and go to the Dept. Plans of Action/Forms page and scroll down to 2009-10 Junior Patch Program link. I need Patch forms by May 1 as the forms must be at National by June 1. Exact URL address is: http://www.missala.com/files/2009-10_Patch_Program.pdf

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, HUGS AND MORE HUGS TO ALL JUNIORS & CHAIRPERSONS!!

Velma Harrington, Chairman



**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Mississippi**

Mini-Leadership Workshop, Part 8

Below is some food for thought. Please share with others in your Unit. The name of the game is sharing information and communication.

The six most important words: "I admit I made a mistake."

The five most important words: "You did a good job."

The four most important words: "What is your opinion?"

The three most important words: "If you please"

The two most important words: "Thank You"

The least important word: "I"

Below are two items that many feel are very important keys to effective leadership:

- Trust and confidence in top leadership is the single most reliable predictor of satisfaction in an organization.
- Effective communication by leadership, in the following three critical areas, is the key to winning organizational trust and confidence:
 1. Helping members understand the overall strategy.
 2. Helping members understand how they can contribute to achieving the key objectives.
 3. Sharing information with members on both how their organization is doing and how each Unit can contribute to the objectives.

Remember to **CARE** about your organization!

Courtesy Attitude Responsibility Excellence

The above information was sent by National Leadership Chairman Sharon Conatser, asking the Department Leadership Chairmen to share it with you.

The best way to destroy a unit is to never attend meetings, don't pay your dues, look for ways to complain about what the workers are doing, never take part just take what the Auxiliary can give you and never give anything back.

LOOK BACK IN TIME

Did you know that our Dept. of Mississippi was founded on
May 29, 1922?

In planning for your May meeting, why not have a birthday party for our great Department?

Have a cake and some balloons, invite the Post members to join in, and even have a little in-house fundraiser and donate the money to one of our programs as a birthday present.

Happy Birthday
Dept. of Mississippi!



Hey Unit Presidents!

Spring Area Conferences are just around the corner. Did you know that you give an oral report about your Unit's activities this year at your area conference? Did you know that you will need three copies of that report to give to the Dept. President, Dept. Historian, and your District President?

Here's what you do: write (or type) out your report with detail--a mini-history, if you will. Then, select highlights for your oral report--remember, you only have **three** minutes for the oral report.

Give us your news! We can't wait to hear about your Unit's activities.

And, remember, the Dept. President uses these reports to make her decision on Units of the Year awards--given at State Convention.

Oh, if you can't attend your area conference, please send someone from your Unit to give your report!

Questions? Contact your District President!

American Legion Auxiliary *90th Anniversary Celebration*

To join in the celebration of the 90th Anniversary of ALA, here are several ideas/suggestions for Unit participation:

- **Throw a party!** Everyone loves a party. Invite the Legion Family to a special 90th anniversary party for your June meeting. Serve cake, wear party hats and provide opportunities for people to share their favorite memories of an Auxiliary event or project.

If you plan to hold an anniversary party, please let me know before June 1. I want to include your participation in my National report.

Also, share photos with me after you have your party for the Web site. I'll also send the best ones to National.

- At State Convention, our Cash Bash Party on Saturday evening will have a special Anniversary theme. Be sure to buy a ticket and come to the party.
- Send a special piece of memorabilia to the Dept. Office for the Cavalcade of Memories.
- **Take a photo!** Have everyone in your unit wear her pin and/or ALA shirt and send it to National Headquarters for use on the Web or in e-News.
- **Got Ideas?** If you think of something unique to do to celebrate the 90th Anniversary, share your story. We'll send that on to National, too!

Thanks for helping us celebrate another milestone in ALA history!

Angela Kilcrease, Dept. President



News through Email

Unit 139 Poppy Dinner to Support Veterans

American Legion Auxiliary Clement R. Bontemps Unit 139, Bay St. Louis, held a Poppy Dinner on Saturday, Feb. 27, at the American Legion Post 139 Club House. Dinner was served from 5 to 8 p.m. The menu consisted of Shrimp Bordelaise, Salad, and Texas Toast—all that for just \$10 a plate donation.

So far this year, the Unit has sent blankets overseas, hundreds of hand-written Christmas cards to our deployed troops of the 155th, gifts for families of veterans hospitalized at the Biloxi VA Medical Center, comfort items for the Biloxi VA patients as well as the State Veterans Home at Collins.

Every month, more than 15 hospitalized veterans from Biloxi are transported to Bay St Louis, where they are treated to a home cooked meal, games, and fellowship. They each take home a gift.

Good job, Unit 139, and to all those Units out there doing the same!

A Visit to Camp Shelby!

On March 17, Southern Division Americanism Chairman Janice Crosby and I went to Camp Shelby (Miss.) and visited with several key personnel who support the troops who are training at the facility. Not only did we talk about distribution of our Pocket Flags, but we found out about some other comfort needs for our troops.

We met with the Chaplains and got several ideas on ways we can support their efforts. The Chaplains place tubs of hard candy around the base, particularly in areas where soldiers must stand in line, waiting to process.

Also, in the processing center, which is a large room in the Headquarters building, the Chaplains have a big Popcorn machine. They told us that they use the tithes they receive at services to buy supplies to keep the Popcorn in supply for the soldiers who are processing in and out—sometimes it's a long wait. The popcorn keeps them occupied.

We can help these Chaplains, can't we? I told the Chaplains that I would bring this to you, our Units, to see if we, ALA in Mississippi, can provide hard candy and popcorn supplies for our troops.

By the way, the Chaplains are helping us distribute our flags. We gave them Cleveland Unit 165's flags to hand out as they see the troops.

Here's the list of needs:

- Bags of hard candy, individually wrapped—and just not peppermints!
- Popcorn (Sam's has 50 lb. bags for \$16.58)
- Popcorn bags (Sam's has 500 bags in a box for \$5.88)
- Popping Oil—buttery (Sam's gallon bottle is \$9.86)
- Salt (Sam's 4 lb. for \$.97)



The above quantities are just suggestions. Donations of any size would be appreciated.

Next, we met with the Red Cross and Family Support—a great group of ladies who are dedicated to serving our troops. Anyway, they told us they liked to keep individually wrapped snacks and bottles of water in their offices for troops who come in and need their assistance. We saw their tray of goodies when we entered the office with a note that the goodies were for the soldiers.

We left Pocket Flags made by the juniors of Unit 112 in Jackson with these ladies to give out to troops that visit with them.

List of needs for this important troop support area:

- Individually wrapped snacks, i.e., chips, crackers/peanut butter, Rice Krispy treats, etc.
- Bottles of water



ARE YOU GETTING THE PICTURE?

Want to support this project? Just call or email me (601.876.6161; angelakilcrease@bellsouth.net). We will need to coordinate this project carefully so as to not overload items or have supplies run low at any given time. We will talk about it briefly at the area conferences for your ideas and input.

Thanks everyone!

Angela Kilcrease, Dept. President