

Department of  
Mississippi

Magnolia



AMERICAN LEGION  
AUXILIARY

Serving veterans, their families and their communities

Monthly  
Newsletter

April 2011



## GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



**IT IS GREAT TO BE AN  
AMERICAN!!!!**

Angela, Jack, John and I have just returned from the Awareness Assembly in Washington, DC. It was very informative and pleasurable, but a tiring trip. Thank you all for the opportunity to

go. We were able to see some of the Smithsonian Institute, the Lincoln Memorial, Korea and WWII Memorials, etc. Lots of walking and lots of cab fare. The weather was clear and beautiful. Our only regret was that the cherry blossoms were not in full bloom.

Thanks to all of you, we were able to present a \$1077.66 check for the Veterans Creative Arts Festival and a check for \$255 for the Poppy Usage contest. One thing we found out is

*(Continued on Page 4)*

## 1ST VICE PRESIDENT-MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN



I feel at a loss for words! In the past month, we have only come up with 2% in memberships. Last month we were at 80%, and this month we are at 82%. I have heard many excuses as to why people are not renewing: the economy, deceased members, and on and on. I would say that it is time to look for new members and ways to excite new interest in our Auxiliary. Make sure that programs are being run and that you are

utilizing volunteers. Include the whole family in service to our veterans. Make their time worthwhile. Always reward their efforts, even if only in a small way. Recognition at meetings goes a long way, and encourages others to volunteer as well.

Area conferences are coming up, and I am hoping that many of you are holding membership renewals to hand in and be recognized. I do not like failure, and I know that you don't either, so let's put forth our best efforts ever to make our

Department President, Mary Lyles, shine this year.

Greenwood #29 and Picayune #73 have both made their 100% membership goal (Congratulations). Dist. VI—Janice Crosby is in 1<sup>st</sup> place with 93%; Dist. V—Candy Babson, 2<sup>nd</sup>; Dist. VII—Angela Kilcrease, 3<sup>rd</sup>; Dist. IV—Rosemary Merriman, 4<sup>th</sup>; Dist. IX—Diane Cantrell, 5<sup>th</sup>; Dist. I—Joyce Pitts, 6<sup>th</sup>; Dist. II—Martha Rodgers, 7<sup>th</sup>; Dist. III: Shirley Turner, 8<sup>th</sup>; and Dist. VIII: Glenda Wheelis, 9<sup>th</sup>. *(Continued on Page 4)*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**NORTHERN AREA  
CONFERENCE,**  
APRIL 2, HORN LAKE

**SOUTHERN AREA  
CONFERENCE**  
APRIL 9  
MCCOMB

**CENTRAL AREA  
CONFERENCE**  
APRIL 16  
BRANDON

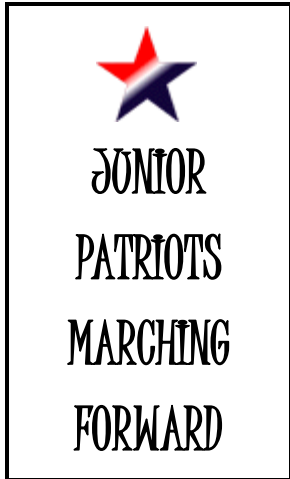
**NATIONAL  
PRESIDENT'S VISIT**  
APRIL 17-19, 2011  
ALL EVENTS SUBJECT  
TO CHANGE.

## 2010-2011 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

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

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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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**FOR THE RECORD - ROSE BLANCHARD, DEPT. HISTORIAN**



It's April and you know what that means--Area Conferences and report preparation started--May 1 will be here before you know it! All chairmen and unit presidents need to be writing their year-end reports. This information is vital for the reports needed to be sent to National, and we want everyone to know the good works we have done this year.

remind us those that came before us and what they accomplished.

Have you earned your "star"? Sign up three (3) new senior/junior members, and you will be awarded your star. Check with your Legionnaires to see if they have any potential members. An excuse I often hear is I don't have the time. My answer to that is I understand, but we need as many members as we can get. When our veterans need something, and we ask Congress or the President for assistance we will have the members to back up the request. The larger the number, the more Washington will listen.

We're still asking for contributions for President Mary's scrapbook. If you haven't sent in anything, please do so or bring it to your Area Conference. Make a copy of something you plan to include in your unit book and send it to

me, the Department office, or a member of the committee listed in your Plans of Action.

I hope your unit is planning to attend your area conference. Not only will you hear what's been happening around the state, but elections for District Presidents and Vice Presidents will be held. This is your chance to have a voice in who will lead your district next year. Maybe you would like to run for office yourself--now is your chance.

With all that is happening in the world today, we need to include the victims of the natural disasters and those standing up for their desire for a free nation, in our prayers. As always, pray for our men and women serving in the military, and their families. Without them, would we still be the Land of the Free?

Hope to see you soon!



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AUXILIARY  
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**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER - CAROLYN TARDY, DEPT. CHAPLAIN**



Spring has officially arrived, and Easter is just around the corner. This wonderful warm weather is calling for yard work and just being outside enjoying the sunshine.

What a fast-paced year this has been. Yes, time is slipping away. It will soon be time for year-end Unit Chaplain Reports. They are due May 1. Don't forget to send in these reports so you can be recognized for the work you do. My report to National is due June 1, so I need all of your reports well in advance. Each Unit that submits a report on

time will be awarded a Certificate of Participation at State Convention in July.

I hope you are working in your Unit Prayer Book. I am looking forward to viewing each of these that you submit for competition. There are no rules for a Prayer Book. These books should be created from the heart and may be as sweetly simple as the Unit Chaplain wishes. Using President Mary's theme, **IT IS GREAT TO BE AN AMERICAN**, might be a good idea. A 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Award will be presented at State Convention. There are no categories. Don't forget your Juniors. They can compete for three awards for

their books as well.

I am making a special Prayer Book for the Department President. I will present it to her at State Convention. This will include inspiring stories and poems from you, our Auxiliary members. I am still asking for these items to include in her book. Please keep them coming. If you haven't sent in anything for this yet, you may bring them to one of the Spring conferences if you wish.

I am looking forward to seeing you at one or all of the Area Conferences. If you don't have the opportunity to attend, then I wish for you a wonderful and happy Easter.

**Thought for the month**

**But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.**

Corinthians 1:20-21

# NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

## **PROGRAMS COORDINATOR**



*Hear Ye, Hear Ye!!*

### **IT'S TIME FOR YEAR END REPORTS!**

Although it is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of our membership year, but it is that time of year that we hunker down over a type-writer or computer and complete our report forms for the May 1 deadline to our Department Chairmen.

I LOVE, LOVE, LOVE good reports—and LOTS of them as that means we've got a lot to brag about to National.

And, AWARD nominations are due as well. Take a look at what your unit has done—match it to the many award opportunities in our Plans of Action—and submit your unit's project.

I know, I can hear you all groan and say,

"we won't win—our project wasn't that much." Well, I say, "HOW DO YOU KNOW UNLESS YOU TRY!?"

Remember, your Department Chairmen and I are here to help you. If you have a question, just ask us! If we don't know (yes, that's rare, but it does happen!), we'll find out the right answer from the National Chairmen.

We're here to support you and cheer you on to great success.

### **UNIT PRESIDENTS:**

Area conferences are coming up, and it is your chance to shine—on behalf of your unit.

Each unit in the Department of Mississippi should be represented at the area conference in your, well, area. The unit presidents give a brief report of the unit's activities this year, based on the much longer, more detailed written report that you give to the Department President at

your area conference. I'm looking forward to seeing a big stack of reports!

**COME ON—WE CAN DO THIS!**

For God and Country,

*Angela Kilcrease, NEC/Programs Coordinator*

## **AEF: Members Helping Members**

So far this year, the American Legion Auxiliary Emergency Fund has given assistance to two Auxiliary members in our state.

The amount given to our members in need far exceeds what we have given to the fund. We are all in the same boat as far as the capability of donating much; however, if your unit has 25 members and each member gives ONE DOLLAR (the cost of a coke or candy bar), that would be \$25 donated from your unit.

These ladies may have been members of your unit. Next time it may be you or me. It's like getting money from your mother. She doesn't ask for it back, but it sure would help just in case your sister needs it later.

You have very little time left to make it count for this year, so plan something at your next unit meeting. Send in your check, ALONG WITH A YEAR-END REPORT, from your Unit.

Mississippi sure has benefitted from the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. It's time that we think about "paying forward" (or "back" in this case).

Don't forget that your year-end unit report is due May 1 to me.

For God and Country,

*Lorene Martin, AEF Chairman*



## **NATIONAL SECURITY**

*With year-end reports due just around the corner (May 1), what have you done for your National Security program this year?*

Nothing, you say? Well, have I got a couple of simple things for your unit to do so you can say you've done something for this very worthwhile program!

1. Make a contribution to our Department's Camp Shelby Chaplain's Project—your unit's money will help us continue to purchase popcorn supplies and hard candy for the Post Chaplains at Camp Shelby to use for our troops in training.
2. We are collecting Yellow Ribbons—that means large, pretty bows—to give to the Family Assistance Office staff at Camp Shelby to use to decorate trees and light poles around the base, etc. to welcome home or see off troops who are deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan and beyond. Bring your bows to the area conferences, and I'll gladly deliver them on your behalf!

Now, see, isn't that easy? Your help will go a long way to cheer our troops who serve us all and keep us free!

For God and Country,

*Angela Kilcrease, Chairman*



# NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

## JUNIOR ACTIVITIES



Hello Juniors and Junior Leaders,

"The Power of One" is the Auxiliary's current motto which includes our Junior members. Betty Turley, National Junior Activities Committee Member,

reminds us that we should include Juniors in all aspects of the American Legion Auxiliary. That is: attending unit or District meetings. Of course, Juniors are encouraged to attend their Junior Department Convention.

My own daughter, who was ten years old when she became very active in the Juniors, loved to travel with the Auxiliary to various functions. It is very exciting for a Junior girl to go to different Posts to meet with the Auxiliaries and other Junior girls. The girls have an opportunity to share ideas and network with one another, and make new friends.

Betty Turley says, "Work side by side with

your Juniors and keep them engaged and active in our programs, and we won't have to worry about the future of our American Legion Auxiliary. Be the 'Power of One' and make our Juniors "Power-ful" by giving them the tools and opportunities to guide the Auxiliary in the years to come."

For God and Country,

*Velma Staley Harrington*  
**Chairman**

## GIRLS STATE

Girls State will be here before we are ready! Ads are coming in slow, Girls State applications are coming in slow, and quite a few received did not include application fees. If your Unit would like to be a patron of a deserving delegate who cannot afford the \$250 fee, please send your check to the Dept. We don't want any of these girls to miss Girls State if we can help it. We would love it if you would go out into your community to see if any local businesses would be patrons or purchase an ad in our program book. Since we have gone electronic with the applications and are

sending out press releases all over the State, we expect to have a wonderful influx of junior girls who have never been approached regarding Girls State. We really need to boost our delegate count. Would your unit do its part if we ask you to see that the young ladies in your town or city go through an orientation or ask your District President to do the orientation? We have Girls State counselors who live all over the State. I can find the nearest and send her to your unit to meet with the girls. If I contact you, please be ready to respond to that question so that I can find an alternate way to get these girls informed. In the March newsletter I sent each unit an informational pamphlet and an application for at least one delegate. We would like for you to go to your local high school junior counselor and ask her to give at least one deserving junior girl an opportunity to attend Girls State. Who knows – she just might be the very one who goes to Girls Nation and represents Mississippi! And don't stop at just one if others qualify. We have plenty of application cards in the office. See you at the Spring Area Conferences!

*Nancy Sanders, Director*

### 1ST VICE CONTINUED, from Page 1

On a happy note, "IT'S A GIRL." Don has had his first granddaughter and one of the newest members of our Auxiliary. Eleanor Hope Barber was born on March 22. "It's a girl!" were the words that I was hoping to hear, and those are words that we should all be listening for. Don't miss an opportunity for that new member. *Mary Smith Ried*

### In our Prayers

Marge Hudson of Clarksdale had surgery at St. Francis Hospital in Memphis on March 30. Your prayers will be appreciated. We send our prayers and best wishes to you, Marge (1533 Wisteria Dr., Clarksdale, MS 38614)

It is with great sadness to report the passing of our Past Department Commander (2003) Bill West. Please keep Mrs. Betty and the family in your thoughts and prayers. Cards may be sent to 40028 Bishop Dr., Hamilton, MS 39746-9644.

A very faithful member of Clarksdale #28, Ardyce Anderson, passed away Friday, March 18. She was 85 years old. Her husband Donald preceded her in death in 2003. Both were committed and active members of Post and Unit 28 and they are greatly missed for their service, loyalty and dedication.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued from Page 1

And, if every ACTIVE MEMBER would bring in one new or renewal, that would bring us on up pretty far. Y'all know that we are in the habit bragging pretty much about our "little ole Mississippi" and the good things we have done, but this membership IS NOTHING TO BRAG ABOUT!

Don't forget that April is report month. Every Unit should bring their President's report to the Area Conference (see our Programs Coordinator's article in this newsletter) and be prepared to read it. PLEASE bring a copy for Nancy, a copy for Rose for the history, and a copy for me...Thank you very much. Also please check your Plans of Action for due dates and get your nominations and reports in on time.

See you soon.....

For God and Country,

*Mary Lyles*

## NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

### PUBLIC RELATIONS



I cannot believe how fast time has gone by. Public Relations Chairmen, it is time to gather all of your PR material that you have been collecting throughout the year for the Dept. Press Book and send it to me as soon as you can. Remember, the deadline is May 1. I hope you have been working on your Unit press books as well. For all PR chairmen who will not be attending the State Convention this July in Natchez, you can either send your unit press book with someone who will be attending or you can mail it to me, and I will make sure it gets there for judging. There are other contests to consider and are outlined in the Public Relations Plans of Action packet. Please read the instructions carefully for these contests. My committee members, Angela Kilcrease, Linda Rollins and Mary Jo Abraham will be accepting contest entries as designated in the Plans packet as well as myself. Our addresses, phone numbers and e-mails are all listed on the cover page. The contest deadlines are May 1.

April is Children & Youth month. Maybe your Unit has something planned for the children and youth in your community. Let your community know by utilizing your local media to get the word out. Write an article and take pictures of your Unit's event for the local newspaper. Do clip an article for me for the Dept. Press Book. Remember to clip the name of the newspaper as well as the date of the article as it will be needed for both Dept. and Unit press books.

Whatever it is that your unit is doing, good PR practices can make a difference in the success of future programs, events and fundraisers.

For God and Country,

*Diane Fountain, Chairman*

### **POPPY POSTER CONTEST**

Just as a reminder...things are winding down towards the end of this year's 2011 Poppy Poster Contest. We have received positive feedback and are looking forward to the many great entries that will be participating. If your unit has not contacted students in your area, there is still time to join in the fun.

Remember, mail all winning entries to me by May 1, at 1015 Miller Drive, Clarksdale, MS 38614, or call me at 662-624-5225 or email me at [coopergerala28@bellsouth.net](mailto:coopergerala28@bellsouth.net). When you mail your entries, please let me know when to expect the arrival of your posters. We are near the end stretch with a little less than five weeks and counting! Thanks for all you do and the students you have encouraged through this contest.

For God and Country,

*Mary Jo Abraham*

### April is Children And Youth Month

Have you planned a program for the children and youth during the month of April? Are you working with the American Legion Children And Youth chairman? This is the month to focus on our future leaders of tomorrow.

Many children are left behind when one or both of the parents are deployed. These service men and women need to know they are not forgotten, that someone cares for their children that are left behind. For more information check the website Military Kids (OMK) [www.operationmilitarykids.org](http://www.operationmilitarykids.org).

During the severe winter that many states have endured, the schools have been closed for days and, in some instances, weeks. Some children have to rely on the food provided for them at school for their main source of nourishment. Many Auxiliary units prepare food packs for needy children and distribute them on Friday to get them through the weekend.

April is a good time to put extra effort in searching out young people for the Youth Hero Award and Good Deed Award, when you find one please acknowledge them with a lot of fanfare as they deserve it.

We still have a lot to accomplish in this Auxiliary year, and the work never stops, they seem to be more challenging during the time of war.

For God and Country,

*Rosemary Merriman, Chairman*



## DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

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Jackson, MS 39212

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SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES,  
AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

## COLLINS STATE VETERANS HOME

Our March monthly party went well. We had a St. Patrick's Day theme. Jackie and Angela Baughman did the refreshments this time, and they made cupcakes with green icing, green punch, green mints and cookies. I believe the residents all had a good time and enjoyed the refreshments; afterwards we played bingo with them and gave them \$5 bills as their prizes. We gave out \$100 in prize money.

Unit 56 in Tylertown hosted a party for them on the fourth Saturday of March, so they will have a big day twice this month. This unit brought their Legion family to participate, along with sandwiches, chips and cookies for all to enjoy. This was their first time to host a party, but will do it again in June.

April will be a special month as we have a car, bike and truck show planned for the residents on April 16. The guys all asked us if we would do this, so we're giving it a shot. There will be hotdogs, chips and cokes for the veterans and those bringing a ride to enter into the show. This is sure to be a fun day for the veterans, but anyone interested in coming is welcome.

We really do appreciate all the donations that we have received for the Collins State Veterans Home. You all have helped us keep something going on for our veterans all year. We have a great group of ladies helping with Collins this year, I would like to thank them as I could not have made it without them. They are Brenda Allgood, Chellie Boone, and Angela and Jackie Baughman—these ladies have done a fantastic job this year.

*Glenda Wheelis, Rep.*

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## FROM THE DEPT. SECRETARY



### Greetings from the Department!

Well, we are now on the cusp of our Spring Area Conferences. It's kind of exciting anticipating the reports, meeting friends, and ELECTIONS OF DISTRICT PRESIDENTS and VICE PRESIDENTS!

Don't forget this year we are holding our District elections under our new Constitution & Bylaws amendment. Enclosed with this newsletter is the delegate strength for every unit. I have calculated the votes according to your membership total (not goal) as of March 24, 2011. Find your Unit on the list and see how many votes CAN be cast on behalf of your Unit. I say "CAN" because there will be no absentee votes. If your Unit is entitled to five votes, five members in good standing will need to be there to cast a vote. If five cannot attend, only the amount present can cast a vote. This should encourage all units to be accounted for and BRING YOUR VOTES! If you do not have a copy of the Constitution & Bylaws, amended July 2010, a copy of the

amended paragraph regarding voting strength at District conferences will be printed at the top of the *Delegate Strength* page.

I would be remiss if I didn't reiterate that unit reports at the Spring Area Conferences will be the ones used to judge Units of the Year. Also, if your unit plans to nominate a member who is active in the armed services for Servicewoman of the Year, you had better *hurry!* The Spirit of Youth and National President's Scholarship winners for Mississippi have been mailed to the Southern Division Education Chairman. Cross your fingers! Hope to see you all at the conferences. Don't forget the planned Leadership Workshop begin at 9 a.m. at each conference. They have scheduled me on the agenda, and I have new information for you and some reminders to those who *are not filling out the new member applications correctly!!!* This will be a great time for questions and answers. I urge all unit officers to attend this workshop. I promise you will learn something new!

*Nancy Sanders*

*NATIONAL PRESIDENT CARLENE ASHWORTH  
VISITS MISSISSIPPI!*

*National President Carlene Ashworth will make her  
official visit to the Department of Mississippi,  
April 17-19, 2011.*

*Join us in welcoming her to our great state!*

*Monday, April 18, 7 p.m.*

*Dinner at Post and Unit 112 in Jackson*

*Tuesday, April 19, 2 p.m.*

*Reception at Post and Unit 77 in Waveland*

*If you wish to attend either of these events, please RSVP by  
calling the Department Office (or by sending an email).*

*To help in planning, these hosting units need to know  
how many to expect from our units. All Legion family  
members are welcome.*

*RSVP*

*601.353.3681*

*Email: [alamshq@aol.com](mailto:alamshq@aol.com)*

