

Department of  
Mississippi

Magnolia

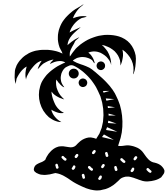


AMERICAN LEGION  
AUXILIARY

Serving veterans, their families and their communities

Monthly  
Newsletter

Aug. 2011



GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



TOUCAN MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE

Past President, and now NEC, Mary Lyles put on a great State Convention in Natchez.

It is with great humbleness that I thank you for placing you're trust in me as your Department President. I will endeavor to serve you well.

I am very pleased that I have a great slate of officers for this coming year. They all seem eager to get started on their projects. The District Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and Membership Chairman Angela Kilcrease are ready to tackle memberships and bring them in early.

According to the committee who handled Commander James Edwards' and my reception at State Convention, over 400 passed through the reception line. This year's State Convention was very well attended. Weather conditions prevented the use of the park strip for our Luau, but it worked out well inside.

My theme this year is "Toucan Make a Difference." I would like to encourage team work this year. We are a country at war, and we need each other, as well as our service men and women need us. My special project this year is the U.S.O. Sometimes the servicemen are stuck at airports for hours at a time, and there is need for supplies such as snacks, refreshments, clean socks, etc. There is a place for each of the Auxiliary members to be of service.

(continued on Page 3)

CALENDAR OF  
EVENTS

MEMBERSHIP RALLY  
AND WORKSHOP  
AUG. 20, 2011  
POST 112  
JACKSON



2011-2012  
DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

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

1ST VICE PRESIDENT



I just attended the State Convention in Natchez. If you missed it, you missed a great time. Congratulations to all the Department and Unit Officers for this next year. I know we will have a successful year under the leadership of President Mary Ried. I would like to thank Past President Mary Lyles for leading us this past year. She cer-

tainly lived up to her motto of "It is Great to be an American." Again, thank you, Mary, for showing us how to lead with pride and dignity.

I would like to thank each member of the Auxiliary for placing your confidence in me to be your 1st Vice President. None of the officers can have a successful year without YOU, the working members of this organization. As your Programs Chairman, I am

asking each unit to work on your programs and activities this year, and PLEASE report what you do. You may not think what you do is important, but it is to our success. Each time you have an activity, take pictures and keep a written record of what you did. Let's all work together to make this a great year for our units, and in doing that, President Mary's year will be a success.

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AMERICAN LEGION  
AUXILIARY  
MISSISSIPPI

### Remembering Linda Rollins

Bourgeois Stieffel Ray American Legion Auxiliary Unit 77 would like to thank everyone for their kindness and prayers during the loss of our dear President Linda Rollins.

Your cards and letters were so well appreciated and helpful to both Unit and Post 77 members in overcoming this difficult time of adjustment. We miss her dearly and shall always remember her dedication to the American Legion Auxiliary.

**There will be a Memorial Service for Linda Rollins at Post 77 located at 503 Waveland Avenue, Waveland, Mississippi, on Saturday, August 6, 2011 at 2 P.M.**

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Sincerely,

*Diane Fountain*  
Unit 77

## 2ND VICE PRESIDENT-VA&R CHAIRMAN



Congratulations to everyone that received awards during Convention and to the new officers, on both the Unit and Department level. I would like to say an extra special thank you to all that have and continue to support me in this amazing journey, and please know that I will do my best to make you proud.

My focus this year is V A & R, and we need to begin making plans for some upcoming events. In October, Cruisin' the Coast, will be at the Biloxi VA Hospital and Fall Carnivals will be held. The Christmas Gift Shop and Christmas Cheer for our

hospitalized veterans need the help of all Units. Volunteers will be needed to help with these activities and be sure to send your donations to A.L.A. Department Secretary, Nancy Sanders, P.O. Box 1382, Jackson, MS 39215-1382.

I know there must be other happenings, but at this point these are the ones I'm aware of.

During the year I want to visit each VA hospital and Veteran's Home, at least once, and hopefully more, so if you will let me know when would be a good time, I can make my plans.

When the Plans of Action are received from the National Chairman, I will adapt them

for the Unit, and they will be included in your total package, distributed by the Department.

Unit Presidents will be receiving their assessment letter soon. This is a mandatory fee and should be paid as quickly as possible. Part of this goes to our Christmas Cheer for our Veterans and when combined with other donations, President Mary will visit the patients and give them some "cheer."

I am here for you and want to hear from you, so feel free to email or call me.

[ro62se@hotmail.com](mailto:ro62se@hotmail.com)  
cell # 228-313-6952

For God and Country,  
*Rose Blanchard, 2nd VP*

## FOR THE RECORD - DEPT. HISTORIAN



(Barbara Tuchman)

*The unrecorded past is none other than our old friend, the tree in the primeval forest which fell without being heard.*

The convention was successful. For those who couldn't be there, you missed an enjoyable event.

As we move forward into a new year, I ask each unit and District President to begin now to gather information about what is and will be going on in your area this year. Develop a system to archive communications such as newsletters, handbooks, guidebooks, brochures and

program information.

Starting now will make record keeping and maintaining chronological order of these records so much easier. If these items are kept up to date, the finished product (your history books) will be a snap.

We have all heard this many times and it certainly merits stating again; keeping a complete history of our Auxiliary is vital for future generations of members to learn what we stand for and what we have accomplished over the years. This is a great way to inspire current and future members, both senior and junior. Think how uninformed we would all be if historical events had not been recorded throughout the

ages. Don't let your histories slip through the cracks and be forgotten.

As events unfold, do take photos and gather information for your unit histories. Don't forget to send that information on us me or to members the History Book committee. Plans of Action will be coming out in a few weeks which will render guidelines for your Unit history books.

Thank you for entrusting me as your Historian this year. I look forward to working with each of you and hope to attend many of the events in your area.

For God and Country,  
*Carolyn Tardy, Historian*

## NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

### **PROGRAMS COORDINATOR**

Now that State Convention is over, we need to start working on our programs and activities for this year. Please try to make it to the Membership Workshop, Fall Area Conferences, and Mid-Winter Conference. New members will learn a lot, and those of us who have been around for a while can get new ideas, too.

There are units who think that you have to wait until you get your Plans of Action at the Fall Conferences to start working on the programs for the year. NOPE! Start right now!! You can use last year's Plan of Action as a guide until you get your new one. There are so many programs and activities that we participate in before we go to the Fall Conferences.

I would like the District Presidents to work with the District Vice Presidents to make sure that the units record all

the information of what they are doing, and report it. "Toucan Make a Difference," and if we all work together as a team, this year will be a success and we will have 100% reports to send to the chairmen.

Please keep records of what you do during the year, so when it is time to do your reports you will have all the information there at hand and won't leave anything out. Angela Kilcrease, who was the Programs Chairman last year, had a Mid-Year Report form to be filled out before Mid-Winter Conference. I am going to use it as a guide and will have it at the Fall Conferences. I am asking that all the units return the form to me by December 31, 2011.

Keep up the good work that you are doing and I wish each unit the very best for this year.

*Sarah Edwards, Programs  
Coordinator*

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D**

My purpose this year is to entice new membership by promoting patriotism, fun and fellowship; while working together in unity for our Veterans, Servicemen and women, their families, and for God and for our Country. My desire is for us to form lasting friendships as we work together. Please read your newsletters to find out what's happening. These newsletters are most informative and will keep you on task.

I will be doing a lot of traveling this month for unit installations. I am looking forward to visiting units that I haven't been to yet. Feel free to invite me to your unit. I would like to see what challenges you might have and how the Department can help you. This invitation is open year-round, not just at installations.

For God and Country,

*Mary Smith-Ried  
Department President*

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER - DEPT. CHAPLAIN



I want to thank the members of the Department of Mississippi for electing me to this most important office. It is a great honor for me to serve you in this spiritual capacity.

When I was asked to be a candidate for Chaplain, I was told that I was needed. This took me by surprise because of the timing—it happened at a time in my life when even the thought of someone needing me was much need in my life without Henry.

As we begin the new year, please start now to encourage your unit members to write down favorite prayers or inspirational stories or poems to submit to your unit chaplain for Prayer Books. I'm starting now myself to collect items for President Mary Ried's Prayer Book.

As I'm not a computer person, yet—please feel free to contact me if you need my assistance: 1004 Edgewater Drive, Philadelphia, MS 39350; Home Phone: 601.656.9897.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Membership Rally and Fall Conferences!

For God and Country,

*Patricia Trest  
Department Chaplain*

*Thought for the  
month*

*I can do all things  
through Christ who  
strengthens me.*

*Philippians 4:13*

## NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

### JUNIOR ACTIVITIES



Hello Juniors and Junior Leaders,

It is the beginning of a new year, so let us start off with a bang!

We don't have to wait for the Plans of Action to arrive. There are lots of programs for Juniors to become involved in now. Look in last year's Plans for the Patch Program or see [www.missala.com](http://www.missala.com) for more information for you newbies. The Leadership Program is also a hot topic with National . Both are great programs for Juniors to excel.

I hope we have some dynamite Leaders out there for our Juniors. Sometimes all it takes is for you to show up--the Juniors are full of ideas for YOU!

If you attended the State Convention, you heard the Junior Report. Weren't those activities awesome?? The Juniors in Mississippi have been doing an outstanding job in the American Legion

Auxiliary. We need to go out and recruit some more girls for our programs. We need more than four new members reporting!!

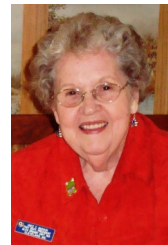
Keep track of all that you do. It is like a diary: writing down your activities, your visits, your volunteer hours, your fun stuff. It all adds up for the end of the year. And, let's get a Junior Member of the Year, this year. I look forward to seeing you this fall.

For God and Country,

*Velma Harrington, Chairman*

### LEADERSHIP

We have a brand-new Auxiliary year ahead of us in which we can learn more about our programs and become better Auxiliary members. Our Leadership training will help new members, new officers and even some of our



"older" members. It is my hope that we can have some workshops over the state in districts and in the local units. Please consider this when planning your unit activities for the year. Contact me for the names of certified instructors who may live in your area, and we will try to work something out for you to have a session in your unit or district. Let's think leadership training this year starting early; we don't have to wait until the Plans of Action instructions come out. Unit presidents, share this newsletter with your membership. Remember, an informed member will be a good member.

I will be back next month with more complete information, until then.....let's remember our service men and women and their families; they need all the support we can give them, as do all our veterans and the children and youth of our great country.

As always, FOR GOD AND COUNTRY,

*Inez McCain, Chairman*

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

Another convention has come and gone and we thank everyone who contributed for a wonderful weekend. Everything was perfect! With another chapter completed, it is time to begin a new masterpiece and start the work at hand.

I have been asked to serve as the Department Public Relations Chairman. I humbly accept this responsibility, knowing that there are some wonderful women in the ALA family that will help us to make President Mary Reid's year newsworthy and exciting throughout our great State of Mississippi.

Public Relations is a vital part of the success of any organization. We already know that we are the "best" in what we do, but we need to communicate our goals and objectives to others, hoping they will want what we have to offer and desire to join us in our endeavors.

In an online search of the meaning of Public Relations, here in part, are a few key points that I found on [www.Wikipedia.org](http://www.Wikipedia.org): Public Relations primarily concerns enhancing and maintaining an image while implementing planned programs of action. Public Relations provides an organization or an individual with exposure to their audiences using topics of public interest and news items as it spreads the information to gain public awareness and can be seen as a result of effective Public Relations planning. Modern technology is the main tool to get messages to target audiences as we use the media, publications, social networks and blogs to reach and attract target audiences while building a rapport.

Remember, every Unit has a story to tell. If each of the 87 Units throughout the state contributes just a small part, we would have a successful year. Now, let us prepare to tell the story of what this year has accomplished for our Veterans and for the history of the American Legion Auxiliary.

*Mary Jo Abraham, Chairman*

## NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

### NEC/NATIONAL SECURITY

IT IS GREAT TO BE AN AMERICAN!!!!

Aren't we glad that the Convention is over? The attendance was good, and the reports were outstanding. Thanks to all of you for what you did all year to make this year a success.

Thank you for the wonderful gifts I received. I've been busy trying to find a place to display. I'll cherish the thoughts and the gifts for years to come.

My Scrapbook is outstanding, and the Prayer Book the prettiest, most inspirational, I've ever seen. And, who would have known that we had so much press...the book is filled. I just wish all of you had the opportunity to see these books.

President Mary and Commander James fed us 'high on the hog' at the luau, and that was just the beginning of the great year we have in store. Mary has lots of plans that will work out as the year progresses. Now is the time for us all to get our act together and work with her to keep Mississippi the greatest.

As you are making your plans, be sure to keep in mind the Chaplains at Camp Shelby. We still need funds for the popcorn and hard candy, as well as the yellow ribbons, and the pocket flags to give the Troops as they come through. Also, if you hear of or know of a soldier's family in need of tender care, take them under your wing and take care of it. Keep very accurate records of all that you do. You will be hearing more about National Security in your Plans of Action coming out late August or early September.

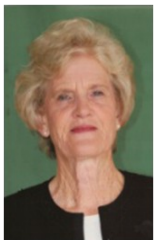
See you all in Jackson on August 20 for the Membership Rally. Angela plans to entertain us and bring lots of turn-ins with you. (The covered dish is always good!)

For God and Country,

*Mary Lyles, NEC*



### 2011 - 2012 Officers Guidelines



Officer Guidelines were developed by Past Department Presidents and were last revised in 2007 – 2008. Its purpose has always been to provide our Department officers with assistance of Auxiliary process and procedures and the tools needed for success.

The Officer Guidelines Committee will meet as needed to update the guidelines for distribution to officers and chairmen on the Department level. It is our hope that the newly revised guidelines will conform to our newly revised Department Constitution and Bylaws. I'm always available if you have input in this process.

*Shirley Lamb-Turner, Chairman*

### 1ST VP MESSAGE CONTINUED FROM COVER PAGE

As many of you know, my husband James is the Department Commander for this year. I will be traveling with him during the year, and I look forward to seeing many of you. Just keep up the good work you have been doing and let the committee chairmen know what you have done.

For God and Country,

*Sarah Edwards*

## NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

### COLLINS VETERANS HOME



James Sanford of the Veterans Outreach at the Collins Veterans Homes is asking for assistance in purchasing a therapy bathtub for the facility. The tub costs about \$10,800 total, and he has about \$5,000 already towards the cost.

If any unit wishes to contribute to this project, please let me know as soon as possible. You may call me at 601.649.5463.

For God and Country, *Glenda Wheelis, Representative*

### PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY

The Department received the great news that our Military Woman of the Year nomination was chosen to be honored at the National Past President's Parley luncheon at National Convention in August. Many congratulations goes to our nominee Angela Baughman of Bay Springs for her selection. She is the Southern Area Commander for the American Legion, Department of Mississippi and an ALA member of Unit 1197 in Heidelberg.

Senior Master Sergeant Angela M. Baughman is employed as an Active Guard Reserve (AGR) Personnel Craftsman for the Mississippi Air National Guard assigned to the Joint Force Headquarters, Mississippi Air National Guard, Jackson, Mississippi.

Senior Master Sergeant Baughman is the eldest child to MSgt (Ret) Patrick L. Baughman Sr. and Jacqueline S. Baughman. She was born at Torrejon AFB, Madrid, Spain, where her father was stationed. She enlisted in the Mississippi Air National Guard on 21 May 1988 with the 238<sup>th</sup> Combat Communications Squadron (now 238<sup>th</sup> Air Support Operations Squadron), Meridian, Miss., as an Administration Specialist. In August 1988, she attended Basic Military Training at Lackland AFB, Texas, upon graduation in September 1988 she attended the 3 Level Administration Specialist Course at Keesler AFB, Miss., with graduation in November 1988. After graduation from the 3 Level Administration Course she returned to the 238<sup>th</sup> Combat Communications Squadron for on-the-job training. SMSgt Baughman attained her current rank on 7 August 2010 and will be eligible for promotion to Chief Master Sergeant in August 2012.



***MANY CONGRATS TO ANGIE! WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!***

### NOTE FROM A SOLDIER

[Mason West Thompson](#) 10:53am Jun 21st

Re: Hello

*Aunt Glenda, I just got the package you and your friends sent me, and y'all did great it made my day to read the letter and see all of the goodies, it sure is nice to know I'm being thought of and I really do appreciate it. That was so nice of y'all, and it completely made my day. Please tell everyone I said I love it and thank them for me too, please. God bless you, Aunt Glenda. You have a good day =]*

This is a thank you note I received via FaceBook for a package Unit 1997 sent to a soldier that is in Germany, but left of Afghanistan on July 15,

He is not really my nephew; he just calls me Aunt Glenda as we have been family friends for years. His great grandfather always said I was his adopted daughter, and it has stuck, his grandfather calls me sister. Thought you all would like to enjoy Mason's not, too.

*Glenda Wheelis, Unit 1997 President*



## DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

War Memorial Building  
P. O. Box 1382  
Jackson, MS 39212

Phone: 601.353.3681  
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SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES,  
AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

## COMMUNITY SERVICE



Former Department Community Service Chairman Berniece Barham's report at convention in Natchez included some timely suggestions for Units, and I would like to iterate them here.

Please stay alert to the needs of veterans in our communities in the high heat. If you know of a veteran who cannot pay his power bill or does not have a cool place to stay, search your resources for possibilities of aid to these valued men and women in need.

Also, remember the veterans who are without jobs and consider putting together a job fair at your Post Home in an effort to help them find employment.

The Department Chairmen will be receiving our Plans of Action from National soon, and I look forward to getting the Department Community Service Plan of Action out to the Units.

In the meantime, community service means just that: please continue to share your love, attention and resources with the veterans in need in your communities.

May God keep on blessing America,

*Diane Cantrell, Chairman*



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## FROM THE DEPT. SECRETARY



### **Greetings from the Department!**

I am probably the last person to send in my article. Things are popping right now at the Department Headquarters. All of those 2012 membership renewals that were given me at Convention and the ones mailed in afterwards have to be posted in our new system by July 31 to prevent all of those members from getting a reminder to pay their membership.

All of the new member applications received at the Department will not be entered into the system until September 1, 2011. National is treating all new applications as 2012 new members. If I send them in now, they will be new members for 2011 and will get a renewal notice for 2012 dues almost immediately. We don't want THAT!

We have been frantically getting all information to Indianapolis for the National Convention regarding our delegates and alternate delegates. Everything has been sent except our delegation fees which will be mailed out after August 2 (they will not accept it before that date).

In the next couple of weeks, I will be sending letters to those units who owe the Department for membership, poppies, etc. This needs to be cleared up before the new fiscal year begins. When and if your unit receives its statement, please

remit your check immediately so that the Department can close it's books for 2011. Thank you.

While all of this is going on, we are compiling the new unit presidents' list and officers for each unit. Please be reminded that if you have not mailed or e-mailed in your new officers' list, your last year's officers and President will be on the Department record to send information and newsletters to.

We will also be mailing out (this week) the new 2012 Plans of Action to each Department Chairman. I WOULD LIKE your revised program back in the office before I leave for National Convention on August 22 – preferably the week prior to August 22. There is much work involved in putting these Plans together for all of the units prior to the Fall Conferences, and I will need ALL the time I can get. Thank you.

In closing, it was a wonderful Convention and I REALLY, REALLY enjoyed seeing all of you. I love you, and please love each other.

For God and Country,

*Nancy Sanders*

# IT'S A TROPICAL HEAT WAVE!

It's official...the 2011 Membership Rally and Workshop has been set for Saturday, Aug. 20, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., hosted at Post/Unit 112 in Jackson!!

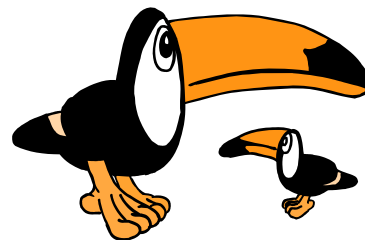
Please mark your calendars to attend--no registration fee--bring as many unit members as you would like.

Pot luck lunch--please bring your favorite dish to share with others.

It's hot, hot, hot! So, we're going to dress in our most comfortable, tropical clothes to make the day festive! *No bikinis, please.*

Units will receive their 2011-2012 goals and tools for membership success.

**LET US SEE YOU THERE! BRING LOTS OF TURN-INS WITH YOU!**



Toucan Make a Difference!

*Angela Kilcrease*  
*Dept. Membership Chairman*

