

Department of
Mississippi

Magnolia



AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY

Serving veterans, their families and their communities

Monthly
Newsletter

June 2011



GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



IT IS GREAT TO BE AN AMERICAN!!!!

The month of May has been a busy time for all of us with reports having gone into the Chairmen and, for the first time, to our Programs Coordinator, Angela. This year is about to end, and boy, has it gone fast.

Our Units have been busy this

year, and it really shows. However, I have the difficult job of picking the outstanding units, and all I have to go on are the reports from the Spring Conferences. They are all great and competitive, but I need more. Please, Department Chairmen, send me a copy of the completed reports you received. If possible, drop it in the mail today. I need too have it be June 15. Thank you very much.

MEMBERSHIP--Our most important program--is way down from where we need to be. Got results today, and we are 37th in the Nation and 9th in the Southern Division (even

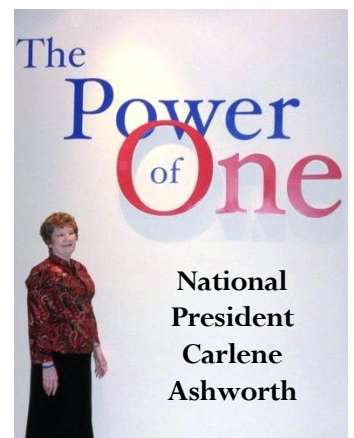
Arkansas has jumped ahead of us). Thanks to all of you units that have made your goal. We have another month to get those members in. Why not ask your telephone committee to make calls to those who haven't paid?

We have had more than our share of tragedy this year (deaths, tornadoes, floods, etc.). I'm proud of the way our Units and Posts have responded. Let's not forget that there are still many folks that need our help in these areas.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

STATE CONVENTION
JULY 15-17, 2011
GRAND HOTEL
NATCHEZ



1ST VICE PRESIDENT-MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN



Our year is rapidly coming to an end and our membership is at 87%. Ladies, I really thought that we could be doing better by now. I have talked to some of our units and District Presidents who have mailed in a few more memberships and have pledged to send in some more members before the end of our year. I would like to

thank Angela Kilcrease, Nancy Sanders, and Diane Cantrell who have sent out letters on behalf of memberships this past month. Let me hear from you so I will know what you are doing to promote memberships in your area.

I know that fifth and sixth districts have some competition going because I have heard it from both District Presidents: Janice Crosby and Candy Babson. District

VI is in the lead by 1%, 97% and District V is at 96%. In third place is District VII with 91% and 4th place is District IV with 87%. We now have twenty six units that are at or above 100%. It was good to see Brandon Unit 68, at the "Run for The Wall" in Jackson, working their membership table and recruiting new members. This is what it is going to take to accomplish our goals this year.

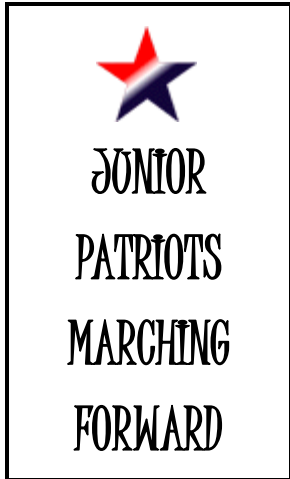
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2010-2011 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

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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NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS FOR 2011-2012

The Dept. of Mississippi pleased to announce the following National appointments for our members:

National Girls State Chairman: Kathy Dungan

Southern Division Membership Chairman: Angela Kilcrease

Southern Division Poppy Chairman: Shirley Turner

Committee Member, Long-Range Strategic Planning: Angela Kilcrease

Committee Member, Strategic Planning Character Initiative Team: Nancy Sanders

Many congrats to these deserving members who will represent our Department on the National level.

We wish each of them great success in the coming year.

FOR THE RECORD - ROSE BLANCHARD, DEPT. HISTORIAN



Thank you to the Units that sent in their year-end reports. I know that everyone has made a huge impact with all that has been done for our veterans and communities, and to see it written, will show future members just what we do. My report is done and was mailed to our National Historian, now I'm starting on the Department History

for this year. The scrapbook committee is working on President Mary's book and I know it will be a wonderful keepsake for her. The book will be presented at State Convention, in Natchez, after the Unit awards are announced. Our weather has caused much devastation across our state, and I realize that this could affect participation in the scrapbook competition, but I do hope to see a good many books, any-

way. It's hard to keep us down....we get the job done!

Girls State will soon start and from what I hear it will be a good year. Many of our officers will be attending, to help guide these young ladies through the week.

What a wonderful learning experience everyone will have! Not to mention the lasting friendships that will be made.

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AMERICAN LEGION
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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER - CAROLYN TARDY, DEPT. CHAPLAIN



Happening this month: Flag Day, June 14

This is a privileged opportunity to show your patriotism. Fly your flag and honor our nation while remembering President Mary's theme, "Isn't It Great to Be an American."

Flag Day, is a day for all Americans to celebrate and show respect for our flag, its

designers and makers. Our flag is representative of our independence and our unity as a nation.....one nation, under God, indivisible. Our flag has a proud and glorious history. It was at the lead of every battle fought by Americans. Many people have died protecting it. It even stands proudly on the surface of the moon.

As Americans, we have every right to be proud of our culture, our nation, and our flag. So raise the flag on Flag

Day and every day with pride!

Learn more about our flag by going on line and reading about its history and about how Flag Day came to be.

I want to thank all of you who sent in reports. This is a busy time for everyone as we are all working on preparations for State Convention. I have begun working on President Mary's Prayer Book.

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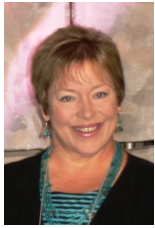
Thought for the month

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:13

NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

PROGRAMS COORDINATOR



Our Department Chairmen have received the (few) reports that were turned in, and we are wrapping up our reporting to National. What you turned in is all we can report—even though I know there is more out there that should have been reported.

Anyway, now that my job as Programs Coordinator is almost done, I thank all the Department Chairmen who worked so well with me this year. This is an important job for our Department as it helps the Department President make sure that we are working our programs AND that our Department Chairmen have a “go-to” person when they have questions or challenges.

For the 2011-2012 membership year, our new 1st Vice President will be doing this job. I ask you all to support her efforts and work with her to insure that we are working our programs and reporting our work.

It does “take a village” to manage all the various activities that we do in the Auxiliary. No one person can do it alone—nor should they. We should all be willing to step and be a part of the solution, and not become the problem. We’re all volunteers, giving in service to an organization that we love as it supports the folks that are most important to us—our veterans and our troops.

Please never lose sight of that singular mission. Thanks again for your support.

Angela Kilcrease, NEC/Programs Coordinator

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE CONT’D

Remember, we will be playing poker again at the Department Convention. This is for our Department Support Fund...funds that must be raised each year to support our budget and the programs, as well as the people we have promised to serve. With our membership being down as it is, it is even more important. Please make your plans to come by and play a hand or two.

Integrity is defined as “who you are when no one else is around.”

God bless you all, and God bless America,

Mary R. Lyles

NATIONAL SECURITY

We received a nice thank you note and certificate of appreciation from the Red Cross at Camp Shelby for our contribution of \$500 to purchase zoo tickets for the April 30 Military Family Appreciation Day at Kamper Park in Hattiesburg. Thanks also goes to Christina Ghents and Kathy Williams of Hattiesburg Unit 24 for working the Auxiliary booth at this event.

Now, I’m asking more of you to step up and volunteer to help with this new project to support our troops. It’s an ongoing project, so it’s not too late to get started. The ladies at the Camp Shelby Family Support Office were very appreciative for our previous gift of ribbons from Lakeshore and Ocean Springs..

Find a good bow-maker in your in Unit...ask them to teach the rest of you how to make bows. Remember, these bows need to be big enough to be tied to light polls, trees, signs, etc. They’ll need long streamers for tying.

Ask local fabric stores or the like to donate yellow ribbon. Once you explain what it’s for, I’m sure some will be happy to help and donate.

And, don’t forget that we need cash donations for the popcorn supplies and hard candy for the Chaplains. They are depending on us!

Thank you to the units who sent National Security reports. There weren’t that many, unfortunately, but I’m grateful for the ones I did receive.

Thanks so much for your help in supporting our troops and their families..

Angela Kilcrease, Chairman



DISTRICT NINE (9) CAUCUS

The Ninth District is saddened by the loss of our 2011-2012 Ninth District President Elect, Linda Rollins, who passed away on Easter morning and who served in an exemplary manner as Ninth District Vice President. Linda was an Auxiliary treasure, working hard for her Unit, the District, the Department, and most recently for the National President's visit. She and her smile and pleasant personality will be missed on all levels. Our sympathies go out to her family and to her Legion family, especially her beloved Unit 77 in Waveland.

As sad as the loss of Linda is, we must move forward and be prepared to elect her replacement. Please give careful consideration to the nomination and election of a member to fill this vital position. During Convention, District Nine members will caucus on Friday, July 15, 2011, at 12:45 p.m. promptly in the back corner of the Auxiliary meeting room for the purpose of electing our 2011-2012 Ninth District President. Voting will be by delegate strength, and delegates must be present to vote. Please do not be tardy, as time will be short, since Convention reconvenes at 1p.m.

Diane Cantrell, 9th Dist. President

NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES



Hello Juniors and Junior Leaders,

Summer is almost here, and it is a great time for membership and new projects. Working on fundraisers--car washes, yard sales, bake sales, poppy projects--all designed to raised funds for veterans. While you are out in the public eye, be sure to bring membership forms and tell everyone what Unit you belong to. This helps bring in new members.

I hope our Juniors have made plans to come to the State Convention in July in Natchez. We will be electing a new slate of honorary State Junior Officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Anyone who is interested may run for office. We will be conducting our business meeting on Saturday, July 16. At that time, the election will occur.

Please make plans to attend the Junior Convention in Natchez.

Thank you to all Junior Units who responded with reports. Several Units have done very impressive work this year, and have made me very proud to read what you have accomplished. All I can say is, **KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK.** You will make very fine Senior members one day.

I will see you in Natchez with recognition awards. You know who you are. Again, you are fantastic Junior members in the State of Mississippi and should be proud of yourselves!!

For God and Country,

Velma Harrington, Chairman



1ST VP MESSAGE CONTINUED FROM COVER PAGE

I talked to one unit president who said that: due to a recent disaster in her area, they were struggling to survive. I know that many areas have been affected by flooding and by tornadoes that have disturbed their lives, their communities, and their focus. Our hearts and our prayers go out to you. If any of your Department officers can help you in your recovery, don't hesitate to get in touch with one of us. That's what your Auxiliary family is here for, to help our veterans and their families.

Our junior memberships are down this year. If each unit would cover their junior memberships this year it would boost our membership percentages tremendously.

I will be handing out District Awards and Unit awards; as well as those much sought after framed 100% certificates, to be displayed at your units.

Keep up the good work ladies and let's get those percentages up! **We can do it if we try!**

For God and Country,
Mary L. Smith-Ried

PUBLIC RELATIONS



I would like to thank all of the units who have sent in a PR report. I want to also thank the units who sent in PR material for the Department Press Book. There was a lot of good clippings and press material used that enabled me to produce a nice full book for President Mary Lyles. Good job, PR Chairmen!

Serving as Dept. Public Relations Chairman, I had the opportunity to see first hand just how busy Mississippi units have been this past year. There were so many wonderful programs and events that Auxiliary units sponsored and participated in throughout the year. Bring your pads and pens to the convention and take notes for the upcoming year, because I promise that you will pick up some great ideas when the reports are read.

I am looking forward to seeing your unit Press Books at the State Convention in July. Please have your unit Press Book on the table in the meeting room by Saturday morning of the convention for judging. If there are any questions, please call me at 228-467-2198 or e-mail me at fountaintwo@bellsouth.net.

Diane Fountain, Chairman



NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE CONTINUED, PAGE 2

Thank all of you who sent in your poems, prayers and stories. You submitted some beautiful words and works. Keep up your good work as will be celebrating and remembering Memorial Day and Independence Day. These are very important holidays for the Legion and Auxiliary.

[Matthew 24:32](#) Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that **summer** is nigh

For God and Country,

Carolyn Tardy, Chaplain

HISTORIAN'S MESSAGE CONTINUED, PAGE 2

We are still in need of new members and for the unpaid members to get their dues in. When dues are paid, you are making a donation to the members of our Armed Forces and adding to our strength when it is needed, by our leaders, while they are in Washington, fighting for our veterans. There's strength in numbers, so let's do our part, get those dues in ASAP.

My prayers go out to everyone affected by the wrath of the storms that have attacked our state and across America. As always, keep our brave men and women and their families in your prayers and may they be home soon.

For God and Country,

Rose Blanchard, Historian

POPPY

I was pleased and honor to serve as your Department Poppy Chairman for 2010-2011.

All reports, Miss Poppy, Little Miss Poppy scrapbooks was sent to National along with the overall winner of the Poppy Poster contest.

Don't forget State Convention in Natchez come and see the crowning of our Miss Poppy and Little Miss Poppy for the year 2011-2012. Guess Who!!!!?

Thanks to all units in District III for all hard work in membership. We will accept membership for 2011.

Also, thanks to all units that got their poppy reports to me on time.

For God and Country,

Shirley Turner, Chairman

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

In my last newsletter, I told you about some interesting programs in our Children & Youth program. Here are a few more for your consideration:



The AMERICAN LEGION and AUXILIARY believe that child safety is everybody's business. Prevention through education remains the best way to keep children safe. To promote child safety, the National Commission publishes several useful brochures designed to educate children and parents and supports numerous national initiatives to keep children safe.

CHILD HEALTH: The American Legion and Auxiliary believe that every child should have access to adequate healthcare. We have partnered with several organizations that share this philosophy. Our collective effort to increase the quality of life for children is making a difference in the lives of millions of children every year.

Now Back To Girls State...

God Bless Each Of You, and God Bless The U.S.A.

For God and Country,

Rosemary Merriman, Chairman

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

Thanks to all Unit Chairmen for sending in some great reports and for serving our Veterans. I also received outstanding accounts from our State VA&R Representatives. They are doing an excellent job.

Thank you all for sending in donations to make this possible. Continue you service and God bless you all.

For God and Country,

Brenda Newell, Chairman





DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

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

Phone: 601.353.3681
E-mail: ALAMSHQ@aol.com

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Mississippi*

New American Legion Auxiliary Cook Book

OK! All of you have proven once again that you are shining stars where Auxiliary Programs are concerned. Your reports and programs should be finished, and you should have time on your hands, right? Haha!

All kidding aside, the Executive Committee formed the Cook Book committee at their last committee meeting, and we have been gathering information for the past year. Now that all the groundwork is almost complete we need your help. We would like to make this a really great book with a variety of recipes from all over the state.

We are hoping to reach out to our unit members and get the best of the best. All we ask is that you follow the following form.

1. Give your recipe a name. If it doesn't have one make one up like "Jane's Pot Pie"
2. Include donor's name and Unit name & number, such as Lou Wilkerson, Clement R. Bontemps Unit 139
3. Make a list of ingredients and be sure to give exact measurements, such as 1 c. or 1 tsp. or 1 8oz can or one 12 oz package.
4. Give instructions for preparation, include special instructions, such as grease dish or use ungreased dish or refrigerate over night
5. Read over and make sure everything is included and very clear

When you have it ready, please either mail or e-mail it to Lou Wilkerson at 201 Bay Oaks Dr., Bay St. Louis, MS 39520 or ALAUnit139@aol.com; OR Rose Blanchard at 204 Poindexter, Pass Christian, MS 39571 or ro62se@hotmail.com; OR Velma Harrington, 608 Tandy Drive, Gulfport, MS 39503.

You will be hearing from us about the cook book, what it is for and about the sales as the project progresses. Now that you have the details look for your Star Cooks and get them to share their best recipes.

Lou Wilkerson

FROM THE DEPT. SECRETARY



Greetings from the Department!

As you all know, this is a very busy time at the Department Headquarters. Membership is coming in REAL SLOW, and it appears we are going down instead of up in the National meter. We shouldn't accept this. Mississippi is known for its GRIT, and we are known for rebounding from the bottom straight to the top. We have a month to do this, so let's get busy!

Like I wrote in last month's newsletter, our poppies are not being delivered as they should due to problems in Kansas (where they are ordered from). I am trying very hard to get those poppies to Mississippi. Those nice people in Kansas think I'm a mean person – I've threatened to find another supplier next year. I do apologize to all of you who have not received your poppies yet. I had asked those units who planned to have Poppy Day at the end of May to contact me so that I could send what I had to them first. I managed to get

all of those covered. As I receive poppies in the future days, I will send them directly to you who have purchased them.

Please note that your unit's delegate strength for State Convention is enclosed in this newsletter. Please return your form and pre-registration fees as soon as possible so that we may put your registration packets together.

Our Southern Division National Vice President (Pat Knight) will be visiting with us during State Convention. Please help us in making her welcome. She is from Virginia and is very excited to visit Natchez for the first time (hope she knows how to swim).

Please remember that the office will be closed from June 3 – June 12 for Girls State. I will be at Southern Miss.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for your patience and friendship throughout the year. I love you all.

Nancy Sanders



**CALLING IN ALL
MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

**ONE
MONTH
TO
GO
FOR
100%
GOAL**

***WORK THOSE PHONES!
CALL UP MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT RENEWED YET!
SEND IN ANY MEMBERSHIPS YOU HAVE ON HAND!
LET'S DO THIS TOGETHER!***

***IT IS GREAT TO BE AN AMERICAN
AND
A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY!***

Thank you for all that you do for ALA. We are a great team that can and
WILL unite to get our mission accomplished!