

Department of
Mississippi

Magnolia



AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY

Serving veterans, their families and their communities

Monthly
Newsletter

March 2011



GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



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

Spring has sprung; fall has fell; March winds are here, and it's sunny as well. We in South Mississippi envied you folks with all the beautiful snow. We had occasion to travel north, and I was able to throw a couple of snowballs at John, which he skillfully dodged. We were

disappointed and saddened that National Commander Foster was not able to visit Mississippi, but those of us that showed up at Post 112 enjoyed a delicious dinner and fun entertainment. Thanks for a good time.

Now then, we need to get down to the nitty-gritty and bring in all those who have not yet renewed and all the new members we can find. Aren't your members having children and grandchildren? We are down to 21st in the Nation and 4th in the Southern Division. Y'all know we can do better than that.

Don't forget that year-end report time is here. Be sure to bring your Unit's report to your Area Spring Conference in April, with a copy for me.

Don't forget your Woman of the Year. And, maybe your Unit knows, and can nominate, an Active Duty Servicewoman to be recognized at the National Convention in Minneapolis in August. Check your Past Presidents Parley Plans of Action and get the info to Bessie Ladner **ON TIME!**

For God and Country,

Mary Lyles

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

MAGNOLIA NEWS IS A
PUBLICATION OF
DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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1ST VICE PRESIDENT-MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN



Memberships are now at 80%. We can still make our 100% goal for this year. Seventeen units have now made their 100% for the year: Fulton, Calhoun City, Hickory Flat, Horn Lake, Ackerman, Newton 236, Philadelphia, Canton, Jackson 112, Liberty, McComb, Natchez 228, Tylertown 56, Gautier/Vanceleave, Hattiesburg 225,

Ocean Springs, and Standard. Several Units are close to making goal. Just a little more effort and you too can be recognized for having your 100%.

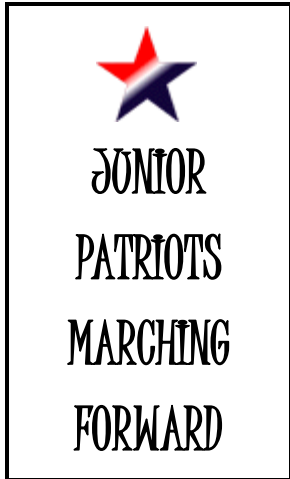
Districts five and six are now tied for first place, District seven is in third, District four is in fourth, and District nine is in fifth place. Where will your District be when next we meet??

Spring conferences are

coming up soon, so let us all push to bring in those renewing and new members. We have all been enjoying the warmer weather. People are getting out more, this should make getting new members a lot more easy. Again, let your district presidents know if they can help you with your memberships. See you all at Spring Conference.

For God and Country,

Mary Smith Ried



2ND VICE PRESIDENT - SARAH EDWARDS



Time is passing so fast. This auxiliary year is fast coming to a close. Our membership is coming in slowly. We did make our 75%, but just barely. We really need to get out there and beat the bushes for those members who haven't renewed and for those potential members. Invite the potential members to some of the functions you have going on and let

them know that your unit would love to have them become a part of it. There are so many women who could be a real asset to your unit, and they have not been asked. When you have new members join, make sure you ask if they have daughters and granddaughters who might become a junior member. The Area Conference time will soon be here. Make sure that your unit sends members to your

area conference. It is also time to start getting your reports together and ready to send to the chairman. Let your juniors help out with the reports. Having them help with the reports lets them know what all the possibilities are for them each year with the programs and activities that we do. Include the juniors in all that you do during the year. Thank you all once again for all that you have done for juniors.

FOR THE RECORD - ROSE BLANCHARD, DEPT. HISTORIAN



Here it is March already and weather-wise not a day too soon. Our state has had its share of cold, wet days this year and I for one am ready for some warmth. You do realize that in a few months I will be wishing for some cool days---guess I'm just hard to please. Looking forward, we have Mardi Gras, the beginning of Lent, daylight savings time returns, St. Patrick's Day, the first day of spring AND preparations for Area Conferences are almost complete.

March is a busy month, but we can handle it, after all, we are a fantastic group of ladies, working together for the same goals. Unit presidents, you should be working on the report you will be giving during your area conference. The unit's historian is a great resource for making sure that you include all activities of the year, plus working together will be beneficial in compiling information for your written history. Your report is very important as this information will be used for President Mary's report to National.

Unit historians, you should be well into putting together your scrapbook and organizing your materials for your written history. I do hope we have more units competing this year. Has your unit sent in items for our president's scrapbook? If not, please do so. I know everyone has *something* to contribute that will put a smile on her face as she browses through her book. I am looking forward to seeing many smiling faces at the area conferences, so make your plans to attend. God bless our service men and women, our veterans and each of you.

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER - CAROLYN TARDY, DEPT. CHAPLAIN



What a winter we have had! I believe everyone is way past ready for spring. God promised us a change in seasons. The change of seasons reveals that God is still in control of this universe. He has certainly shown us who is in charge this winter. But spring is on the way. It can be and is a new beginning. Use spring as an inspiration and an excuse to stop and enjoy the simple things in life. Go for a walk; soak in the sunshine and beauty around you.

Take note of the birds singing; the trees budding; the flowers popping up; and...hug your spouse; take you children and grandchildren fishing or to a ballgame; visit someone who is elderly or sick and offer a word of encouragement. Enjoy and use wisely this brief span of time that God has given us. This is a good time to remember that we should enjoy all the seasons, especially spring. The Spring Area Conferences are just around the corner. I hope to see each of you attending at least one of them. Come join us as we discuss the activities and events in which our Auxiliary members

have been engaged. This also means that you have just a short time to send in your prayers, poems and stories for the Department Prayer Book. Don't forget to be working on your Unit prayer books as well. I look forward to reading them at State Convention in July. There will be three winners and no particular category. Remember that your year-end report is due by May 1. Everyone who sends in a report will be presented with a certificate of participation at State Convention.

Thought for the month

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.
(Genesis 8:22)

NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

PROGRAMS COORDINATOR



My, My, here it is March already! The winds are blowing, the flora and fauna are blooming, and Angela is ready to begin the busy reporting season!

That's right, now is the time of the year when I start bugging each and every Mississippi unit for year-end reports. I hope you didn't think I would forget!??

Nay, I say! Please begin to organize your unit minutes and records to recollect all that you have done through the Auxiliary for our veterans, their families, and our communities. Pull out your Plans of Action, dust them off—if need be—and begin your reporting process for 2010-2011.

From your reports, we have award

nominations to submit and reports to National to make. Our Dept. Chairmen will be waiting by their mailboxes to hear from you all.

Please, please don't forget about the scholarship opportunities in the Education program that will be due very soon.

Searches for good Girls State delegates should be underway.

Poppy Poster Contests should be happening in our communities.

There are just so many things you need to do between now and May 1 when all reports are due.

Unit Presidents, be prepared to give your Unit's overall report at Area Conferences. We'll be listening!

For God and Country,

Angela Kilcrease, NEC/Programs Coordinator

President Mary Lyles and NEC Angela Kilcrease Go to Washington

President Mary and NEC Angela will be traveling to Washington, D.C. March 19-23 to attend the annual Awareness Assembly.

National Legislative Chairman Kathy Dungan (our very own) will be there as this is her big event of the year. I'm sure she and all those planning the event will provide us with an informative meeting.

Angela will also be representing our Department at the meeting of the National Executive Committee. Actions and proceedings that effect us all will be reported to you upon her return from the meeting.

NATIONAL SECURITY

I want to thank the ladies of the Ocean Springs Unit for calling me to say they want to participate in supplying yellow ribbons for the folks at Camp Shelby to use when troops are deploying or returning home through that facility. Hooray!

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.

My unit talked about it at our Feb. meeting, God love them. I'm hoping we can get a batch ready soon, too.

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.

Go for it, let's give this a try. Please call or email me if your unit wishes to participate. Feel free to bring whatever ribbons you have made to your area conference to give to me or Dept. Secretary Nancy. We'll make sure to get them to Camp Shelby.

Thanks so much for your help in advance.

For God and Country,

Angela Kilcrease, Chairman



Does Your Unit Star Shine in the Department?

How will you answer this question? Well only a few can answer yes. If you have a Constitution & By-laws on file in the Department office, your STAR WILL SHINE; if not, it's time to shoot for the stars.

If you need help, let me know, I can help but the final decision needs to come from your Unit. Some of our older Units think they have a start but some have lost their luster as they have never been updated.

Many things have changed, such as dues for one thing. Let's read what we have and make changes that are needed.

Please have your Chairman contact me so we can talk. Thanks and good luck with your C&B update.

Lou Wilkerson, Chairman

NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES



Hello Juniors and Junior Leaders,

This month celebrates "Wearin' o' the Green" or St. Patrick's Day. It is a wonderful opportunity for Juniors to help the Post and Unit with the celebrations on the 17th. Juniors are eager to show that they too are part of the American Legion family, and this is one way to use their talents with decorations, setting tables, assisting with ticket sales, and helping with serving. Juniors can make four-leaf clover name-tags as a project.

Cathy King, Western Division Junior Activities Chair, reminds us that there are two scholarships available to Junior members. One is the National President's Scholarship; the other is Spirit of Youth Scholarship. Both deadlines are March 1, 2011 to Unit Presidents. Rules can be found on the ALA website. Please apply if YOU are a SENIOR in high school.

I hope all Junior Units in the State have

achieved their goals for membership. I am looking forward to seeing many girls in July for the conference.

Remember to continue making the leis for the summer conference. I would like to give every senior member her own lei from a Junior member.

How are your projects going? Does anyone need any help? Please let me know if you do--I will be glad to lend you any assistance or to answer any questions. My telephone number is in the Plans of Work.

For God and Country,

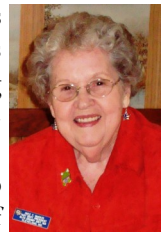
Velma Harrington, Chairman

LEADERSHIP

There will be a two-hour "Mini" Workshop at each of the spring area conferences: Northern at Horn Lake on April 2nd; Southern at McComb on April 9th, and Central at Brandon on April 16th.

Our schedule will be (1) Open with "What & Who is the American Legion Auxiliary? From 9:30-10 a.m.; (2) Dept

Secretary Nancy Sanders will give instructions about the office regarding forms and other information from 10-10:30 a.m.; and (3) the Leadership Committee (consisting of Brenda Newell, Diane



Cantrell and myself) will finish the program from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Please note that Southern Area workshop will begin at 9 a.m., so adjust these times accordingly.

We encourage all Unit members within each area to attend these meetings, as this will be a chance to learn some of the do's and don't's within our organization. We need every member to be informed, and this will give you an opportunity to get answers to questions you may have.

Inez McCain, Chairman

Be sure you read the article on Positive Attitudes that is in this Newsletter, and after next month, you will have some material for your year-end report that you will send to me by May 1st.

POPPY POSTER CONTEST

We have been planning for the past several months to participate in the Poppy Poster Contest, and now is the time to put the final touches on your Unit's contest. You may hold your contest anytime between now and May 1st, as that is when I need to know of your winners.

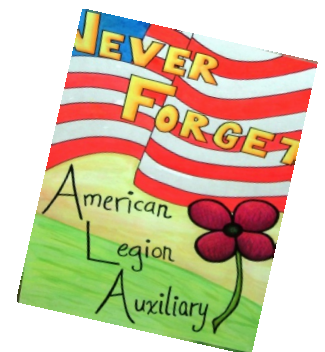
I hope that I have given you some helpful ideas and suggestions to make your contest a success. Our May 1st deadline is drawing near for my receipt of all your area winners, and I cannot wait to see the fruits of our efforts. My mailing address is 1015 Miller Drive, Clarksdale, MS 38614 or email me at cooperyergerala28@bellsouth.net or call me at 662-624-5225 with any questions, suggestions or comments. I would love to hear from you.

A special thanks to each and every one of you for all of your help. Let's be a bright, shining "Star" with the best contest the State of Mississippi and National has ever seen. With God's help, we can do it. You go girls!!!!!!

For God and Country,

Mary Jo Abraham, Poppy Committee

Poster Contest Coordinator



NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

VA & R



National Memo on Homeless Veterans: The number of returning veterans from Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom is expected to surge in correlation with President Obama's announced withdrawal date of December 2011 from Iraq...Of the veterans who have returned, over one-third have been screened as being at-risk for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and other mental conditions. More data can be found in a recent publication, *Engaging Veterans and Families to Enhance Service Delivery: a tool kit for Community-Based Organizations*. Copies of this report can be obtained by calling the Center at (617) 964-3834 or e-mailing at www.familyhomelessness.org/resources.

Other points of interest are as follows:

- There is a chart at the bottom of page 12 in the publication that shows where demobilizing service members and their families can turn for information. As members of those family/family groups, this toolkit will help us to be even more effective in pointing veterans toward resources that can help them.
- Veterans' unemployment rate is 11.5% which is 2% higher than the civilian population.
- "Military Cultural Competency" – understanding the issues, problems, values and language associated with serving in today's military.
- Even organizations that do want to capture their clients' veteran status may fail to recognize they have veterans in their midst because they frame intake questions to narrowly by asking "Are you a Veteran?" instead of "Do you have any history of military service?" Discharge status and self-perception as well as possible trauma connected to deployment and combat stress all impact whether or not a veteran chooses to identify themselves.
- **Approximately 7000 women veterans are currently homeless.** They are younger than their male counterparts, more likely to identify as a racial minority, have lower incomes in their civilian jobs than their male counterparts, and experience higher rates of unemployment (16 % for 18-24 year olds: higher than male veterans and double that of non-veterans).
- The divorce rate for Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans is twice the rate of the civilian population.
- The American Legion is listed in the resources, as are many of our partner organizations.

This memo gives us more than a little to think about. These Veterans are risking their lives defending freedom. We all should consider what we can do for them.

Brenda Newell, Chairman

Children and Youth

To all unit C&Y chairmen, I would like to introduce you to some very interesting programs you might like to present to your members.

Children Miracle Network: to benefit the health and well-being of our children.

Mercy Medical Airlift: to ensure that no child in need is denied specialized medical treatment, evaluation, or diagnosis for lack of long distance transportation.

Ronald McDonald House Pop-Tab program: as a youth fundraising project for financially challenged families with seriously ill children who must undergo treatment at a children's hospital.

CHILD CARE SERVICE-urge your UNIT members to cooperate to the fullest extent with state, community, public, and private agencies with childcare responsibilities, so they will be available to all children in our state and raise the level of understanding among the general public about the needs of adequate childcare services.

FIREWORK SAFETY-urge your UNIT members to educate communities, children and parents about firework safety and to attend firework displays put on by professionals, not private persons.

FAMILY WEEK-urge your UNIT members to establish NATIONAL FAMILY WEEK during the THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS as an annual observance.

PROJECT JOSH AND FRIENDS-urge your UNIT members to consider the JOSH AND FRIEND--Project JOSH, the loving-wag-happy-vanilla-colored-retriever, based in KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, is an amazing canine that brings comfort to hundreds of hospitalized children. The books, "I'LL BE O.K." and PLUSH PUPPY JOSH, is helping to transform anxious hospital stays for children into friendship-filled adventures to wellness. Dr. Randy Lange and Josh, the Golden Retriever, have achieved remarkable results in their quest to comfort children. The two have traveled extensively promoting The Josh and Friends Project and helping children cope with hospitalization.



Rosemary Merriman, Chairman



DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

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AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

GIRLS STATE

ATTENTION UNIT PRESIDENTS: The units who are actually participating in procuring delegates for Girls State is very disappointing. Did you know that you can contact your local high schools, interview applicants, sponsor those deserving girls and someone other than yourself can pay their delegate fees as Patrons? You would be surprised how many parents will pay for their daughters to attend Girls State; how many local businesses will assist financially. Every unit needs a Girls State Chairman. It's one of the Auxiliary's most important programs. This year the Girls State applications are on line on the Department's website (www.missala.com). There will be girls from all over the State applying. They will need a sponsoring unit. Are you prepared to take these girls under your wings and prepare them for what they will be experiencing at Girls State? We are sending each unit an information pamphlet regarding Girls State so that you will re-educate your unit chairman. The Department is now mailing out applications to counselors and parents who have called in. Please call in your order for application cards, make sure your high school junior counselors get them and follow up to make sure they handed them out. **YOU NEED** to do your part to insure this important program's growth.

As the 2011 Girls State Director, it's going to be tough enough to follow in the shadow of awesome Lou Wilkerson. All eyes will be on the "new Director." It's very intimidating! Please do this favor and contact your local high school junior counselor. Give the counselor the Department telephone number (601-353-3681) or our e-mail address (alamshq@aol.com) if you do not have anyone in your unit to take this responsibility. That in itself is the most important step. We will take it over from there if your unit is not interested. We need your help! Don't let us down!

This year the Girls State session will be held June 4-10, 2011, at the University of Southern Mississippi. For more information, please call the Department Headquarters.

Nancy Sanders, Director/Chairman

FROM THE DEPT. SECRETARY

Greetings from the Department!



At this time of the year in the Department, there's a feeling of urgency to prepare so much for the coming months and hoping to get it all done.

Past Department Secretaries can only describe the feeling. There's the Awareness Assembly (hoping to get enough money in to make President Mary look good when she hands our Creative Arts Festival check to the National President); preparing and copying Girls State forms (applications are already coming in); preparing for the Spring Area Conferences; and really preparing for the National President's visit. We are fast approaching our 80% membership milestone, and every piece of mail is opened with hope of many renewals or new members.

The calls are more frequent regarding our forthcoming

events. It's exciting! And always, preparing for State Convention is an ongoing adrenaline rush.

Your Department Headquarters is a bee hive of activity right now. Always in the back of my mind is the National President will visit the office when she comes, and I need to have it cleaned "spotless"! Boy! That makes me nervous!

I've ordered 24,000 poppies. That sounds like a huge amount, but I either delivered or mailed that many last year. Now, here's the catch: I have a huge amount of boxes cluttering the office to mail out poppies. They will be delivered to the office in about three weeks. PLEASE send your orders to the Department so they can be delivered at Spring conferences or mailed out prior to so that I can "clean the office" for the National President's visit! P.S: I NEED MEMBERSHIP!

Nancy Sanders

Department Cookbooks

Rose Blanchard and I are working on the all-new Dept Cookbook, which will be our first fundraiser for the proposed National Candidates Fund for the Department. We want it to be the best that the members of our Units have to offer. Please read this to all of your members and ask for their contributions. They are not limited to one recipe they may have more than one really good one.

We have a few rules that we will require:

- Please type or e-mail your recipe to make sure it is readable.
- First, give your recipe a Name or Title (Brownie's or Rose's Famous Cookies)
- Make a complete list of ingredients. This is important—double check to be sure all are included.
- Make sure your measurements are clear and correct—don't say a little of this or some of that. **BE EXACT!**
- Next write the instructions for assembling the dish. Once again, be clear and complete.
- Next give any tips or special instructions, such as size and type of dish, pot, or pan.
- Lastly, don't forget to include the temperature and cooking time.
- On the bottom put your name, Unit name and number, and if you are Unit Pres., Dist. Officer, or Department Officer, please include your title.

I have gone through the old Department cook book and copied the recipes of deceased members, and they will be used in a chapter dedicated to their memory so their recipes will live on.

I am going to send each Unit a list of names, and I need you to let me know if they are living or deceased.

We need to get started so, be one of the Stars of this book. Send us your recipes to Rose Blanchard – 204 Poindexter Dr. – Pass Christian, MS. 39571 – 228-313-6952
ro62se@hotmail.com OR Lou Wilkerson – 201 Bay Oaks Dr. – Bay St. Louis, MS. 39520 – 228-493-2582 – mawmaw5x@aol.com

If you prefer, you can hand deliver your recipes to one of us at the Area Conferences which are coming up.

Lou Wilkerson, Chairman