

Department of
Mississippi

Magnolia



AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY

Serving veterans, their families and their communities

Monthly
Newsletter

May 2011



GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



IT IS GREAT TO BE AN
AMERICAN!!!!

My goodness, what a busy month April has been...three area conferences and the National President's visit. We had a good turnout of folks to visit with and accompany her to all stops. Thanks to Unit 112, President Carlene presented a Spinoza Bear, four Josh Dogs and a \$250 check to Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital in

Jackson.

My personal thanks to Post and Unit 112 for the wonderful dinner and entertainment Monday night and to Post and Unit 77 for the beautiful reception Tuesday afternoon. Both events were well attended...thanks for coming and showing your support. We also had a nice visit with the Chaplains at Camp Shelby, where we took MUCH popcorn and candy, and President Carlene presented a check for \$500 to the American Red Cross there at Camp Shelby to cover admission tickets to the zoo in Hattiesburg for military families on April 30.

While President Carlene was

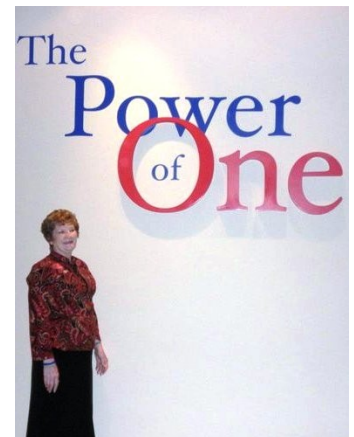
here, the officers and Distinguished Guest Committee had a heart-to-heart discussion concerning retention of membership. I'm sure Mary R. and Angela will share some of this with you.

So now that the Spring Conferences are over, what do we do now? Get your reports in to the Department Chairmen. I realize you gave a combined report at the Conference, but check your Plans of Action for the report form needed to go to the chairmen and DO IT NOW. We have accomplished wonderful things this year and it all needs to be recorded.

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CALENDAR OF
EVENTS

STATE CONVENTION
JULY 15-17, 2011
GRAND HOTEL
NATCHEZ



1ST VICE PRESIDENT-MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN



now.

It was great to see many of you at Southern and Central Area Conferences; my regrets that I was unable to make Northern Area this time. I heard that it was one of the best Northern Area Conferences that we have had thus far. I'll try to make it

The last report that I had, we were at 85% membership goal. I was hoping that I'd have better news for you by

up somehow. I didn't know the dates when I scheduled our short week's vacation. We had some membership turn-ins, and we were very pleased to see some more memberships. (We need more to meet our goal). There's still time if we all give it our best efforts. I'll be giving out 100% certificates to more units at State Convention.

We had a lovely visit from our National President Carlene Ashworth. Her visit was brief, but she had a great reception at the Post in Jackson and in Wave-

land. We also attended Camp Shelby. While the President was here, she shared some good ideas about getting memberships in at this late date. Her suggestion is to get some of our senior members who can't attend meetings and ask them if they will make phone calls to the members who haven't yet made their annual dues "contribution." Let them know that; even though they can't attend meetings, that their dues are an important part of our ability to perpetuate ourselves.

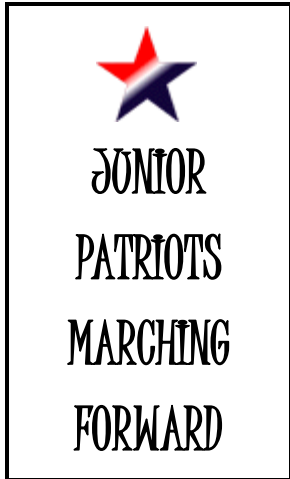
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2010-2011
DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

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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2ND VICE PRESIDENT - SARAH EDWARDS



Well ladies, the Area Conferences were all a success, and I want to thank each member who attended. I also would like to thank the host units. You all did a great job of making each of us feel welcome.

I hope all of the units have been working on their reports

and will get them in to the chairmen by May 1. I know we all have worked hard this year, and this is our chance to let everyone know.

The membership is still coming in slowly, but I do want to thank those units who have 100% or better in junior membership. For those units who are so close, keep your chin up and don't give up.

Those juniors are out there, and we have to keep trying to get those dues. Remember that these girls are going to fill our shoes someday, and we have to be good mentors to them. Include them in all of your activities and programs.

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FOR THE RECORD - ROSE BLANCHARD, DEPT. HISTORIAN



My, but April has been a busy month! I began the month with my first trip to Horn Lake for NAC. We had a great meeting, with the added benefit of seeing friends, and of course, good food. The next weekend, we traveled to Sum enjoyed a great meeting, visiting with friends and good food. And for CAC, we traveled to Brandon, for another great meeting, friends and

food. That was the weekend that Jackson had a tornado touch down near some of our members, but thankfully they didn't sustain damage.

Rather than head back to the coast and then return the next day, we decided to spend some time in the Jackson area, before beginning our visit with our National President Carlene Ashworth. Thank you to everyone that worked so hard to make our conferences and the President's visit

a success. Know that you are truly appreciated!!

Now is the time to be getting your reports written....May 1 is here, and that is the deadline for them to be received by the chairmen, but we're still taking them. This information is necessary for reports that must be sent to our National Chairmen, so that we can brag on everything our Units have done.

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER - CAROLYN TARDY, DEPT. CHAPLAIN



Memorial Day belongs to the fallen and their memories.

This month we observe Memorial Day. It was initially a day to honor fallen Union soldiers. After World War I, it became a day to honor all the fallen from all the wars this nation has fought.

Mississippi played an important role in designating this day for all war dead. It

seems some ladies in Columbus were cleaning off graves of Confederate soldiers. They observed the graves of Union soldiers that were grown over. They knew their loved ones could not clean their graves. So they took it upon themselves to clean the graves of the Union soldiers as well. What these ladies did became a healing touch for the nation.

Memorial Day is not a time to honor war. It would be great if we never had any wars. The

Bible talks about that time when armies will beat swords into plowshares. We are not there yet. Let us continue to pray for that day.

Memorial Day has been called Decoration Day because many people placed flowers on the graves of their loved ones on this day. This day is also linked with the beginning of summer. Unfortunately, many people are ignorant of the significance of this day.

(continued on Page 5)

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



So much to say, so little room!

April was hectic, May is all about reporting, and June is Girls State. Whew, I need a vacation!

If you are reading this now, and your unit reports have not been turned in, stop reading this and go do your reports!

Reporting is very important to document our successes as a team. We are obligated to report to National...that's our responsibility as members. Get your Plans of Action, pull out each program's form(s) and send them as directed. Again, **DO NOT WORRY ABOUT THE CONSOLIDATED REPORT FORM. USE OURS!**

NATIONAL SECURITY

I want to thank the ladies of the Ocean Springs Unit and the Lakeshore Unit for supplying yellow ribbons for the folks at Camp Shelby to use when troops are deploying or returning home through that facility. National President Carlene Ashworth presented these units' ribbons personally during her visit to Mississippi.

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 Family Support Office were very appreciative for our gift.

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. Ocean Springs has promised me 100 more ribbons! Isn't that GREAT! **And, don't forget that we need cash donations for the popcorn supplies and hard candy for the Chaplains. They are depending on us!**

I'm looking forward to all your National Security reports. If your unit has done anything for our troops...let me know in your report.

Thanks so much for your help in advance.

Angela Kilcrease, Chairman



DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN: Your draft of your National report is to be in my hands by May 15. We will work together to make sure Mississippi turns in every report and puts as many of our units in for awards as possible before June 1. I'll be talking to you...BELIEVE IT!

Our National President's visit went very well, thanks to some hard working members. Special thanks to Unit Presidents Lorene Martin of Unit 112 and Linda Rollins of Unit 77 and their wonderful, dedicated members for hosting events for President Carlene. You all are shining stars in our Department.

I'm on my way to Indianapolis to attend the Membership Workshop and the Long-Range Strategic Planning meetings, but if you need me, just call or email me.

Angela Kilcrease, NEC/Programs Coordinator

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D

Also, continue to work on your membership. Get a phone committee and call those who have not renewed. Just ask, "Is there a reason you have not renewed your membership?" This has been proven to work wonders.

I hope all of you are making plans to attend Convention in July. Natchez is a wonderful place to visit, and we are making plans to have enjoyable and informative meetings.

God bless you all, and God bless America,

Mary R. Lyles

GIRLS STATE ADS

It's not too late! If you have a business, or if you know someone who has a business, get us an ad. The full page is \$100, ½ page is \$50 and ¼ page is \$25. If each Unit will work on this project, we will have enough funds to make Girls State a Class A program. Come on now get busy and get some ads. All you have to do is ask—you'll be surprised how often you get a "yes" for your answer.

Constitution and Bylaws

By now you should have filled out your reports and sent them on their way. It has been a star-studded year. I received more reports than ever. Several more units now have C&BL on file, and I know the rest of you are working on it.

Each of you are the Power Of One and The American Legion Auxiliary is alive and well demonstrating "Service Not Self." Thank to each of you for your cooperation.

Low Wilkerson, Chairman

NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES



Hello Juniors and Junior Leaders,

Memorial Day activities are an excellent way for Juniors to become involved with the Unit and Post. Decorating the Post Home with flags and banners, baking cookies or making punch, and serving food are just some of the small jobs Juniors can do. Juniors are also helpful in visiting cemeteries and decorating the gravestones of Veterans with the laying of flags. This is a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate our devotion to Veterans.

If your town participates in a Memorial Day Parade, sign up your Junior Unit to march in it. The girls will love it! Provide flags for all the girls and have some fun! Ask the mothers to accompany you, and you will have a small crowd. Wear some red, white and blue!

This time of year is also a good time to recruit some new members for your Junior Unit. When you are in the public

eye, naturally others want to know what group you are with. Be sure to talk to others about your Junior Unit and the Auxiliary and Post Home, when you are out and about with the Unit. Everyone always needs some new friends!

Hopefully, every reporting Junior Unit has already sent their forms to me. Thank you.

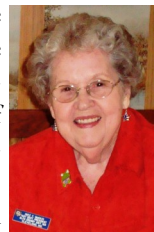
For God and Country,

Velma Harrington, Chairman

LEADERSHIP

As you may not receive your Newsletter in time to mail your Leadership report by May 1st, I will accept those with any activity until May 10th.

That will leave me enough time to get the report ready for the National Chairman. So, if your Unit had any activity that you can send in, please get it in the mail to me. Thanks for your cooperation.



Inez McCain, Chairman

1ST VP MESSAGE CONTINUED FROM COVER PAGE

In order to support the veterans' homes, hospitals, and programs their annual dues are necessary to make these programs possible. By paying their dues, they are also honoring the veteran that they joined under. So, bottom line ladies, we all need to get on those telephones and get the last leg of our goal met. Only another 15%!! I know it can be done if everyone pitches in and works together. I am proud of what we have accomplished so far, but I'll be even prouder when we hit that 100%, mark.

Please remember the family of Linda Rollins, President of Waveland Unit 77, in your prayers. She worked so hard for her unit and was looking forward to serving as Ninth District President this upcoming year. Her untimely death was a shock to me, and she will be greatly missed by us all especially here in our community of Bay St. Louis and Waveland.

For God and Country,
Mary L. Smith-Ried

PUBLIC RELATIONS



National President Carlene Ashworth arrived in our great state of Mississippi on Sunday, April 17. With a full itinerary from Jackson to Waveland, much was accomplished thanks to her Department tour guides President Mary Lyles, NEC Angela Kilcrease, Secretary Nancy Sanders and all others who helped to make President Carlene Ashworth's trip a huge success. I had the opportunity to meet President Carlene at our Waveland Post 77, where we hosted a reception in her honor. She is very dedicated to the American Legion Auxiliary, promoting Auxiliary programs and events throughout the United States. I wish her well as she continues her journey through the end of this membership year and beyond.

Speaking of programs and events, I hope all units have completed their annual committee reports. I want to thank all of the units who have submitted PR material for the Department Press Book and who have entered the contests in the Plans of Action. I truly appreciate the efforts of each of you. Unit Press Books are due at the State Convention. I hope to see a lot of them. Please follow the guidelines in the Plans of Action when making your Unit Press Book. As always, if I can help in any way, just let me know.

Diane Fountain, Chairman

On a very sad note, after the success of Waveland 77's reception for President Carlene, Unit President Linda Rollins passed away from a massive heart attack early Easter Sunday morning. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and her Legion family in Waveland. She will be greatly missed by the Department of Mississippi. God's speed, Linda.

NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE CONTINUED, PAGE 2

Our Veterans remind us of the sacrifices made so we can have picnics and play golf and go swimming on Memorial Day. I hope you will enjoy doing these things. In turn, I also hope you do it with the knowledge that our freedom was gained by the cost of blood and lives. This day belongs to the fallen and their memories.

Now is the time for all good Units to send in their reports. I have received two thus far. I am patiently waiting for more so I can complete my report for National. They need to know that we are working here in Mississippi. Please make that final effort to send those to me. I will still accept prayers and poems for President Mary's Prayer Book.

I hope you are working on your Unit Prayer Books for judging at State Convention. I am looking forward to seeing them.

Thought: **Sorrow** looks back; **Worry** looks around; **Faith** looks up.

For God and Country,

Carolyn Tardy, Chaplain

HISTORIAN'S MESSAGE CONTINUED, PAGE 2

Reminder: When sending your written Unit history to me, you only need to mail the pages, not the binder. Make certain that the binder is taken to Convention, in July, so the pages can be inserted. The final judging will be on Friday, at the conclusion of our meeting, and they MUST be in the appropriate binder.

I am anxious to see the many scrapbooks you will bring for judging. You will be competing against other units your size, so please don't feel that you won't have a chance to win against the big guys. Show us what you and your Unit have been doing this year.

We are so close to our membership goal, but we need to get busy and get those renewals and new members paid up. There are many Units that need less than five more to make their 100% ---quite a few need just one or two---so let's get on the phone, or whatever we can, in order to get this done. Junior members also count towards goal, so check to see if all the granddaughters, great-granddaughters are members. We want to make our President Mary "shine." and it's up to each of us to get to work!

Again a big thanks to all that made this a successful month. As always, keep our veterans and military personnel in your prayers.

For God and Country,

Rose Blanchard, Historian

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

In my April newsletter article, I reminded you that April was Children and YOUTH Month. Now that April has come and almost gone, May 1 is time to get your year-end reports to me, so please let me know what you did if you did something special. The other units are looking for new ideas they can do.



We have not heard much about Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA), but I have a real story that happened in our town this month. Some small children were playing in a neighbor's yard, being watched by the lady who was babysitting the youngest, while their fathers were playing baseball. The 3-year-old decided to wander off and fell in a hot tub (no hot water was in the tub) and drown. Seven people are alive today because her organs were all donated to help some one else live. If you are interested in this program, please contact Children's Organ Transplant Association at 2501 W. COTA Drive Bloomington, Indiana, 47403 or e-mail COAT@COAT.Org.

Please let me hear from you with some good reports .

For God and Country,

Rosemary Merriman, Chairman

2ND VICE MESSAGE CONTINUED, PAGE 2

It will soon be State Convention time and I hope to see many of you in Natchez. I wish that each unit in the state would send at least one representative to the state convention. Wouldn't that be wonderful!!! It is at state convention that the units receive the recognition of all their hard work during the year. By attending you may hear of some great ideas that your unit may do during the next year.

Keep working on membership and let's make this a 100% year for President Mary.

For God and Country,

Sarah Edwards, 2nd Vice



NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

POPPY POSTERS

A special thanks to all the students and Auxiliary members who worked so hard to make the Poppy Poster Contest 2011 a success. As your entries are beginning to be collected, All I can say is WOW!!!!

I wish I could share these "Kodak Moments" with you personally so you can see how talented our young people are throughout the state. They have combined their imagination and patriotism to make each entry award winning.

It will be a very hard decision to select the overall state winner that will forwarded for National competition, but you will have to wait until July's convention before I can share all the details.

See you in Natchez!!!

For God and Country,

Mary Jo Abraham
Poppy Poster Contest Coordinator

GLEN CROSBY UNIT 165 CHILD IDENTIFICATION SAFETY PROJECT

APRIL 16, 2011 CROSSTIE ARTS & CRAFT FESTIVAL

Unit 165 in Cleveland sponsored a booth during the Annual Cleveland Crosstie Arts and Craft Festival. The unit borrowed equipment from the Crime Stoppers Program, including hardware and computer data program and printer, height chart and scales, digital fingerprinting and photo scanning. The equipment worked beautifully and all that was required was a 110 electrical outlet. We were situated next to the face painting booth which was perfect! We set up the canopy at 8:30 a.m. or so and opened the booth about 9:30 a.m. and worked steady until 3 p.m. Great project, Unit 165.

Thank you all!



COLLINS STATE VETERANS HOME NEWS

Cruisin' with the Veterans

Do you remember the days of poodle skirts and bobby socks? Well, we brought it back on April 16 at the Collins State Veterans Home. With the help of the Okotoma Cruisers, the Dept. of Mississippi was able to put on a car/truck/bike show for our veterans. There were fifteen vehicles in all. We presented three trophies in each class (car/truck/bike). Even if an entry didn't walk away with a trophy, everyone had a great time talking and showing off their antique vehicles. One veteran just loved the Model T pickup...."I used to coon hunt in one like that," he was heard telling by the owner and others around the pickup, with a huge grin on his face.

We can't forget the food. Hot dogs, chips and soda were served, and all ate until their bellies were full. Once the trophies were presented the members who brought their beautiful vehicles, then all paraded around the circle drive for everyone to enjoy. They were lead by none other than the Mayberry Sheriff car....sorry, Barney Fife wasn't there, but Mr. Don Sullivan did a fine job of leading the parade.

Thanks to Angela Baughman from Unit 1997 of Heidelberg for planning this great show; and thanks to members of 1997 for their help in making this a big success.

Our next party will be on May 21 hosted by Unit 24 in Hattiesburg. We have had a fantastic year so far in serving our veterans with bingo, parties of different kinds and just visiting with each and every veteran we come in contact with. Without the help of many different units, we would not have been able to do so much and had the money to fund it with. Thanks everyone.

For God and Country,

Glenda Wheelix, Rep





DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

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GIRLS STATE

As you read this article, newspapers all over the State will have information available to publish on Girls State. The deadline is getting close on getting those applications and fees in. Mary Ried, Angela Kilcrease and I leave on the 28th for the Membership Conference in Indianapolis. We will have mailed out packets to all applications received before that date. We hope to have a tremendous amount awaiting our return the following Tuesday. If you need applications or information regarding Girls State, you may get this and more from our website (www.missala.com). We have completed our staff handbook and will be getting staff packets out before leaving for Indianapolis. If your unit needs someone to help with your orientation, please let us know. Lou Wilkerson has been working fast and furious on our program ads. We have not heard from many of the units. We really could use your ad in our program. The ads are \$25 for a quarter page, \$50 for a half page and \$100 for a full page. We need your ads by May 15 in order to complete our program in time for Girls State.

If your unit has no girls to sponsor, maybe you can assist the Department with a donation so that another delegate can go who has no patron. There are many young ladies who would love to attend and have sent in applications, but have no patron to help pay their fee. These girls will be disappointed if they cannot attend. They may be the recipient of one of our scholarships to help them attend college and your unit may be the very one who gave her that chance. Girls State is one of the most important programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. Let's go forward and make this a successful year.

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!

We have been super busy at the Department this month. We are pleased to say that National President Carlene had a very informative trip to Mississippi, and is safe and sound at her next destination. She called the office the day after she left to assure us that she really enjoyed the visit. On behalf of the Department, thank you to all who made this possible. We have been working fast and furious on packets for Girls State. This will be a daily job until Girls State begins on June 4 at USM. We are also putting the State Convention meeting agenda together at this time and preparing for that great event. Membership is slow, however, and that's what we need coming in more than anything. Please, please get those renewals in to the Department. We are giving out of time to keep those members not renewed in our program. If we lose them, we will have to work extra hard for those new members. We're making calls from the Department, and you can help by contacting unit members.

By the time you receive this newsletter, the deadline will have passed to get your Recruit Three and Silver Brigade forms in. I waited until the last minute to get all I could mailed in to National. Mary Ried, Angela Kilcrease and I will be traveling to Indianapolis on April 28 for the Membership Conference. As usual, you may contact me through the Department phone, but I will only be able to return your calls between meetings and in the evenings. I will return to the office on May 2.

I know you are wondering why you haven't received your poppy order from the Department. Well, the Department hasn't received its order yet. Apparently our source is having difficulty getting the poppies made, and so is National Headquarters. If you are planning your poppy day in May, please let me know. We are trying to get those in first to get to you. They have been ordered since February. I ordered 24,000. So far we have received 4,000.

If the Department can be of service to you, please give me a call. I look forward to our conversation.

Nancy Sanders



CALLING IN ALL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Let's talk about membership. Ladies, the Department of Mississippi is lagging in membership. Although we've reached our 85% milestone, we should settle for no less than 100% for this membership year. Last year, we fought and scraped and made 100% goal for the first time since Hurricane Katrina. You all did it, and it should have been a great place to start for this year.

As our National President, Carlene Ashworth, told us in a meeting with your Department officers last week, **NOW IS THE TIME TO GET ON THE PHONE AND TALK TO OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT RENEWED TO DATE!** You all know who they are--the ones on your rosters who have not renewed this year.

Let's take Unit 139 in Bay St. Louis for an example. This larger unit has struggled every year to reach 100%, but last year, by using their telephones and personal contacts, they reached goal--by reaching out to their members personally. This year, their Unit President tells us that they are doing the same thing to round up the last 26 members they need for goal. Everyday, members of that unit make personal phone calls to those members who have not sent in their renewals. Of course, they are consistently signing up new members, but it is the renewals that we can't overlook or ignore.

When you call these members, they may say, "oh, I don't attend meetings" or "I'm not active, so why continue my membership?" You should immediately respond by saying, "your membership is valuable to us as it helps our organization continue to do the work that we do for our veterans and our troops. Your renewal is a commitment of support for our veterans. Your dues renewal allows us to support projects at our VA Hospitals and Veterans Homes, our work at local bases like Camp Shelby, supporting Children and Youth activities, and providing scholarships, among a few of many things we do as an organization together.

Without your "gift" of membership, we don't have the financial wherewithal to give to these programs." Help them to understand that they are, in simplistic terms, making a donation to help us help our veterans.

Remind them, too, that their membership honors the veteran under whom they joined. They don't have to be active, although we surely need more volunteers, but one small contribution makes a big difference in our organization and its mission.

Please, let's get on the phone or stop by our members' houses. Now is the time for personal contact--not letters or emails. If you have memberships to turn in, send them now. Don't hold any memberships, there is **NO NEED** to do so. We're counting on everyone in our Department to help reach our membership goal.

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