

Department of
Mississippi

Magnolia



AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY
Serving veterans, their families and their communities

Monthly
Newsletter

Nov. 2011



GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



TOUCAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

What a fast pace I have as Department President. Nancy Sanders and I just returned from Indianapolis where we attended the Presidents-Secretaries Conference. As you know we were in the top place in our division. As a

result of being first place in membership, we sat at the table of honor next to the National Officers. We also enjoyed four days of training for the new programs and changes, two busses took us to National Headquarters where we toured the beautiful facility (what a treat!).

You will learn, as we did, about these changes when you attend the fall conferences. I think that you will be pleasantly surprised with the changes in our agenda. Don't expect to be bored, but come and have fun as you learn. We want to see all unit presidents, secretaries, treasurers, and officers at these learning sessions, and we also hope to

have a good turnout of members. We will be having break-out sessions to better target your specific needs. So, be sure to be there for these workshops.

Please be collecting pictures and articles for my scrapbook so I will have memories of my year as your president. You can mail them to my committee or to me. Also, Please be working your programs which are designed to help our servicemen and women and our veterans and their families. Don't forget to report what you do so our state can be recognized for our services. Thanks for your help. *(continued on Page 3)*

CALENDAR OF
EVENTS

NORTHERN AREA CONF.,
OCT. 29, CORINTH

SOUTHERN AREA CONF.,
NOV. 19, MENDENHALL

CENTRAL AREA CONF.,
DEC. 3, LAKE TIAK-
O'KHATA



1ST VICE PRESIDENT-PROGRAMS COORDINATOR



We have started our Fall Area Conferences. We have the Northern and Central Area Conferences left, and I am looking forward to seeing you at Mendenhall and Louisville (Lake Tiak O' Khata). Please try to go to the Area Conference for your district. There are so many important things to be learned and discussed

about the plan of action.

Keep the membership coming in. Angela and Mary are doing a fantastic job, but they need our help. We just need to keep on working and getting our membership in so we can meet (but hopefully exceed) the target dates.

Veteran's Day is coming up in November, so I hope you all are planning some type of program at your Post. Also,

as we plan our Thanksgiving celebrations with our families, let's not forget our service men and women and their families. Let's never forget our POW and MIA's and their families during the holidays.

I wish you all a very blessed Thanksgiving and wish those of you who will be traveling a safe trip.

For God and Country,
Sarah Edwards

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

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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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2ND VICE PRESIDENT-VA&R CHAIRMAN



“Courage is almost a contradiction in terms. It means a strong desire to live taking the form of readiness to die.” G.K. Chesterton

In the United States, Veterans Day was originally known as Armistice Day. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed that it be celebrated on November 11, the day on which the Armistice that ended World War I was signed. This year is the 92nd anniversary of the event. Woodrow Wilson, president at the time of the First World War, said Armistice Day was an occasion to be commemorated. He said: “To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service, and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us, and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her

sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations.”

Fifty-six years before Armistice Day, President Abraham Lincoln noted on the muddy fields in Gettysburg the heroic soldiers whose sacrifice turned the events of the Civil War to the side of the Union army. Lincoln's words are enshrined among the best of Veterans Day quotes. He said in the famous Gettysburg Address about the soldiers who died: “But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.”

Sadly, many Americans look at Veterans Day as an extra day off, without giving a thought to the why this day is special. We must make it our goal as a group and as individuals to remind and educate our neighbors as to the why they have this day

off. As you plan events for the day, put the word out for the public to attend. Who knows you might sign up new members, once they see who we are and what we do.

I hope everyone will attend the Area Conferences as they will be a different format and will have more information than just reading the Plans, which you can do in the comfort of your chair at home. Don't forget this is also a great opportunity to visit with friends and enjoy good food.

Remember to send or bring me your special veterans picture for our Wall of Honor to be displayed at Mid-Winter Conference.

As always, pray for our men and women serving our country and for those that have done so in the past.

May each of you have a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving.

Rose Blanchard, 2nd Vice

FOR THE RECORD - DEPT. HISTORIAN



THE LESSON OF HISTORY IS RARELY LEARNED BY THE ACTORS THEMSELVES.

James A. Garfield, 20th president of the United States.

HISTORY: Pass it on...

The Auxiliary's second National Convention was held in New Orleans, Louisiana in October 1922. The first States Dinner was held at this convention; 1,300 people attended. Dr. Kate Barrett of Virginia was elected National President. During this year, Auxiliary Units did everything in their power for the hospitalized veterans. These efforts eventually resulted in the establishment of the Veterans Administration and the development of a system of modern Veterans Administration medical Centers.

You should have your Plan of Action by now. I hope you have looked over the objectives and are developing your own system for gathering and writing your Unit's history. It is important that you

record this system in your mid-year and annual narrative report. Be careful to communicate with your Unit's officers to avoid any possible omissions. Your report will be needed before you realize it. Those of you who have junior members, please include and encourage them to participate in this project.

(WIN) Wildly Important Project: Preserve Department of Mississippi ALA Memories. All members in the Department of Mississippi are encouraged to write down memories of service and association in years past. Compile written memories of past presidents and officers and of past events. Send all information to the Department Historian as it is collected. These memories will be entered into a Mississippi ALA Memories album to be kept at the Department of

vice for prosperity.

As you read through your Plan of Action, take note of additional activities and plan for the History contests for both senior and junior members.

Join your Post, Unit and your neighbors to observe Veterans Day on November 11. It is important that we continue to **Honor Their Service.**

I hope to see you at the fall conferences. And...I certainly hope you have a healthy, blessed and tummy-filling THANKSGIVING. Give thanks for your many blessings.

For God and Country,

Carolyn Tardy, Historian

NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D

This month June Laws and I were able to welcome home a Vietnam Veteran to Vicksburg. He had traveled from Iowa to Mississippi. You can see his pictures on Facebook, "Freedom Trail Ride – 800 miles from Iowa to Mississippi."

October was a busy month at the VA hospital in Biloxi. We celebrated "Cruisin' the Coast," where the Veterans enjoyed the old cars while we served chili dogs, chips, drinks and ice cream. On the 21st we had a homeless stand down. Homeless Vets received haircuts, medical attention, clothing and other needed items. On the 22nd the Veterans were served: hamburgers, hotdogs, pizza, drinks, and desserts by Auxiliary members from Alabama and Mississippi. There was a good turnout for this "Fall Festival." The veterans also enjoyed games on the grounds and received canteen bucks. A good time was had by all.

Congratulations to Commander James Edwards on his successful homecoming. We enjoyed being there for you as you "tooted your own horn!" Have a great year.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and remember our servicemen during this season.

For God and Country,

Mary Smith-Ried
Department President

MEMBERSHIP



Since our last Department newsletter, membership has, well, dropped to a trickle!! Why is that?

My last article was so happy, and membership was going so well. Many of you pitched in and dug deep for renewals. Several units, to include a couple units that are trying to jumpstart themselves, are signing up new members. Life as we knew it was good. Then.....flatline!

So here's what we have to do: get our groove back. Yes, we met that first membership objective. And, our next goal of 70% is not until the first of February. But, do you realize that the holidays are fast approaching.

Life will certainly take our hearts and minds elsewhere and our membership mission will take a back seat.

So, for the upcoming Area Conferences, I ask you to bring with you a nice, fat envelope of membership to turn in.

Whoever brings in the highest percentage of membership will just get a little prize to share with your unit. Something delish, too!

Ah, bribery, you say. Yep, call it what you will, but hopefully it will jumpstart our little membership hearts back to a roaring beat.

Let's get with it, my dear ALA friends. I need your help in order to help our beloved Department. And, as always, I truly appreciate all you do to help with this most important program.

Many happy wishes for you and your family for the Thanksgiving holidays. Let's remember to count our blessings everyday and try to be a blessing to someone everyday.

For God and Country,

Angela Kilcrease, Chairman

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER - DEPT. CHAPLAIN



The month of November offers us many opportunities to pay respects for ourselves and our dedicated service men and women. On Veterans' Day, we pay special tribute to all those who have dedicated themselves to ensure the nation's freedom without which we would have nothing. Let us show our appreciation by participating in some ceremony which is designed to honor our veterans.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, say a special prayer for those who make freedom possible for all of us. Pray that we shall forever be blessed with brave men and women willing to take time out of their lives to serve us so unselfishly.

Even though it is a busy time for us all, remember to be getting together prayers for President Mary's prayer book. I will need your input by May 1, 2012.

For God and Country,

Patricia Trest
Department Chaplain

Thought for the month

You are my lamp, O Lord; the Lord turns my darkness into light. With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall.

2 Samuel 22:29-30

In our Thoughts and Prayers:

All Dept. of Mississippi members who have been sick or hospitalized or who have had ailing family members. We hold you all in our thoughts and prayers.

NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

PUBLIC RELATIONS



At the time of this publication, the first of the Fall Area Conferences has taken place in the Northern District with Corinth Post/Unit 6 as our hosts. Many thanks to everyone, throughout the Magnolia state, who had a hand in making this event a success. Hopefully you have heard an idea or can apply a concept that will re-shape your Unit's agenda for success. Veterans Day is November 11th, so plans are being finalized in creating a memorable day for our Veterans. Your Unit's history is growing and your special "Kodak Moments" are bringing smiles as your memories are compiled.

Although Facebook has made a few changes to its format, that does not stop the daily postings or the loading of photos to tell our story. Newsletters are keeping members updated on current events and inspiring participation in group events. Throughout the state, a rapport has been established between the Editor/Publisher of the local newspaper and the Unit's Public Relations Chairman/Committee, working in harmony to spread the message of what the American Legion Auxiliary stands for and how we intend to continue the mission that was started in 1919.

According to the Department of Mississippi Plans Of Action, the purpose of Public Relations is "To work collaboratively with all levels of the organization to create, implement and support a proactive communications network that advances the objectives and programs to the general public." You should have your 2011-2012 POA's in hand as they are filled with many great ideas on promoting your Unit. Please, take the time to familiarize yourself with its content and enhance your search efforts as you surf the web through the resources noted. If you are looking for sample news release templates, they are available online or by contacting National Headquarters at pr@ALAforVeterans.com. Suggested links for help on media contacts, writing tips or how to get started in promoting your Unit's Public Relations are also included. Home Front Magazine and National News newsletters are also mentioned as an additional source. Learn to enhance your correspondence and paint a mental picture for your readers that will keep them wanting more. Boost interest. Use PowerPoint for effective presentations, create a website for your Unit, purchase a gift subscription to Auxiliary Magazine for your doctor's office or beauty salon or copy some of the ALA brochures and Media Fact Sheets that are available online and distribute them throughout your community. Remember, the Auxiliary's growth depends upon our Public Relations efforts. "Toucan Make a Difference" as we put our best foot forward and let the community know ALA is still alive and kicking, going and growing.

I thank my God every time I think of you (Col 1:3). Count your blessings, count them one by one, count your blessings and see what God has done. Happy Thanksgiving!

Mary Jo Abraham, Chairman

CHILDREN AND YOUTH



To All Unit Presidents: This is a very important message. so please read this carefully:

I have served as your Children & Youth Chairman for many years and have enjoyed working in this capacity. I will continue to be chairman as long as some one needs me. I am hoping that I will receive enough reports from the Units by Dec. 31 to let National know what we have been doing here in Mississippi. I would appreciate it if each Unit would send me a short, narrative report on what you have done for our future Legion and Auxiliary members.

To improve our program and show that we are making an effort to help our youth, take notes at each meeting of what has been done by your members, then, at the time to make a report ,you will have it on hand. With your help we will succeed. Check your Plans of Action and follow the programs National has set out for you. If I can be of any help, please let me know

Thank God for helping me get through yesterday and blessing me with today!

For God and Country,

Americanism

2011-2012 American Legion Auxiliary Plan of Action

Purpose: To promote patriotism and responsible citizenship.



State Chairman

Name: Connie Kate
Department of Mississippi
4029 Southern Oaks Dr.
Gulfport, MS 39507
228-896-1100

Committee Contact Information

National Chairman

Name: Melanie Taylor
Dept. of California
707-894-0857

Southern Division Chairman

Name: Peggy Monrow
Department of Tennessee
931-724-4495
peggy robbins2009@yahoo.com

Dear Americanism Committee Members,

It is time to get started on your Americanism projects! Visit your local schools and youth groups with information and applications to encourage their early entry. Speak to the appropriate teachers and enlist their cooperation in the Americanism Essay Contest. All entries must be submitted no later than April 15, 2012 to avoid conflict with end-of-year school activities, and may be submitted to State Chairman earlier. Winners will receive an award of \$50 and a \$50 honorarium in the student's name to the National President's Scholarship.

You will find many other suggested activities for Americanism projects in the national Plans of Action sent to each unit. Remember to record the hours spent on all projects.

With best wishes for your success,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Connie Kate".

Connie Kate
Americanism State Chairman

**WELCOME, CONNIE, AS A FIRST-TIME
DEPARTMENT PROGRAM CHAIRMAN AND
NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTOR!**



DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

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Phone: 601.353.3681
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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.MISSALA.COM

JOIN OUR GROUP ON FACEBOOK



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MISSISSIPPI

ALSO, JOIN: ALA SOUTHERN DIVISION

COMMUNITY SERVICE



The American Legion Auxiliary should be the leaders in our communities to develop, implement, and monitor community service activities that promote economic security for our veterans, active-duty service members, their families, and the homeless veterans while encouraging the public to assist in this endeavor.

There are many fun and rewarding activities you can provide to make sure we are reaching those we have promised to help.

Advanced planning and enlisting others will assure a successful project. You will find some helpful activities and steps to complete in the Community Service Plan of Action.

Auxiliary-recognized National days of service in November and December are Veterans Day (November 11th), National Family volunteer Day (November 19th) and National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (December 7th).

Units should take advantage of the opportunities to assist those less fortunate than we during the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season.

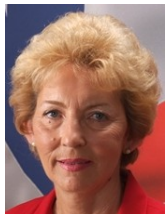
May God keep on blessing America,

Diane Cantrell, Chairman



FROM THE DEPT. SECRETARY

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES,
AND THEIR COMMUNITIES



Greetings from the Department!

We have been pretty busy at your Dept. Headquarters. With the new color printer that was donated by President Mary Ried and husband Don, my printing is quite snazzy. However, the bulk of my work is on the big copier. Do you remember me complaining that it's brain was fried, and it wouldn't make copies from the top? Well, Hovious-Grayson Unit 112 in Jackson came through once again and purchased an awesome copy machine that does everything, including stapling! My, I am uptown now! Words cannot explain my appreciation of the Rieds and Unit 112. Together they saved the Department about \$10,000. Make sure you thank them when you see them. I do!

We have really gone out of our way to make your Fall Area Conferences interesting and informative. Please make a special effort to attend. The break-out session on the duties of Unit Secretaries/Treasurers given by yours truly will begin at 10:15 a.m. at each conference. I am going to teach you how to file your own tax reports! And, believe me, your secretaries and treasurers will learn something they didn't know that will be of benefit to them and your unit. I also have a surprise for some of you. If you don't attend, I'm not telling you!

Just got a notice from our poppy suppliers. They have PLENTY of poppies for 2012 and promise not to be late getting them out. Your order forms will be in the December issue of our newsletter. They have gone up some this year, but not unaffordable by any means. Last year, a few of you missed your order dates and needed some later. There were none later and none to order. Please make sure the order form gets in the right hands.

Also, the mandatory assessments are coming in slow. You know that the Christmas Cheer and Legion Special go straight to the veterans. It's getting late in the year and our VA facilities need your assessments. There are still a couple of units that did not pay last year's assessments. This is not a request – this is mandatory. Failure to do so may result in your charter being pulled and/or revocation of your voting eligibility at State Convention.

I went back to school at the President/Secretary's Conference in Indianapolis. I learned that you can teach an old dog new tricks. For my Auxiliary, I'll do whatever it takes.

Hope to see all of you at the Area Conferences. It's always great seeing your friends.

Nancy Sanders

DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY COOKBOOK

The response to our Cook Book has been good, but I know you can do better. There are a lot of good cooks out there, and we've only heard from a few of them. I've been to your Posts and Units, and I know how you cook, all those really good meals with desserts. We want to have recipes from all over the state. Remember, we need 600 recipes for a really good book. You don't have to type you can just write it down and mail it to one of us. Send list of ingredients, directions, and any other instructions as needed. You have until November 15, don't wait do it now.

Below you will find two set of rules for our two contests. The first is the art contest to design the cover, and the second is to name our cook book. We want everyone to be a part of this book.

COOK BOOK COVER CONTEST RULES

Mississippi Theme

Art work must be 5 inches X 3 ½ inches (5" vertically X 3 1/2" horizontally) remember that anything larger will be reduced for judging.

Must be original drawing or art work

No black and white pencil drawings, color laser, dot matrix or ink jet.

Work must be in color on a white background.

You must sign a waiver giving us permission to use the work.

All entries must be postmarked no later than November 15, 2011.

Mail all entries to:

LOU WILKERSON
201 BAY OAKS DR.
BAY ST. LOUIS, MS 39520

NAME THE COOKBOOK CONTEST

There is really only one rule. The name must be original and appropriate. Having said that let me give you a few facts. The art on the cover will have a Mississippi Theme, the recipes are from Auxiliary members from across the state, and the dedication will be to the ladies who went before us and laid our foundation. All entries must be emailed or postmarked by November 15, 2011.

Mail all entries to

LOU WILKERSON
201 BAY OAKS DR.
BAY ST. LOUIS, MS 39520

E-mail

Lwilkerson1935.com OR ro62se@hotmail.com

