

Department of
Mississippi

Magnolia



AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY
Serving veterans, their families and their communities

Monthly
Newsletter
Oct. 2011



GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



TOUCAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

I would like to thank Gulfport Unit 119 for giving me a great homecoming celebration. I would also like to thank the DAV for allowing us to meet with them in the absence of a Legion Post home. I would also like to thank all who attended from around the

state. I thoroughly enjoyed breakfast and witnessed seeing each of you there.

Congratulations to D'Iberville Post 2002 on the lease of your new Post home. I am proud to see how far the Unit has come in the past year-and-a-half. I was once again honored to install the units' officers this year.

I just had the privilege of officiating over the election and installing the officers of Unit 243, Moss Point. This unit has members who are very much interested in seeing that their unit and its programs succeed. Good luck and best wishes ladies.

I visited Unit 139 Bay St. Louis for their pancake

breakfast and witnessed June Laws, our Department Woman of the Year, at work. She signed up two new senior members and one junior member. One of the new members signed up a friend of hers, and my husband Don signed up an active serviceman. When people start signing people up in a big gathering like that, it is contagious. You should all try to get a chain reaction such as this going. If this starts to happen all over the state, Angela Kilcrease, Dept. Membership Chairman, shouldn't have to worry about achieving goals. We all had fun with it, and you can too.

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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



The Plans of Action are now complete. We distributed our first copies at the Dept. President's Homecoming last weekend. To help us save a little money on postage, if you are in the Jackson area, stop by the office and pick up your unit's copy.

District Presidents, you could help us hand them out, too. Get in touch with Nancy if you can help hand distribute.

The Plan is thick, and chock full of great information and potential projects for us to try.

At the Fall Area Conferences, we going to try a new format, one that has more juicy and timely information for

you to use in your local units. It's back to basics time and a time that we can learn more about our organization and its day-to-day administration. Please make your plans to attend the conference in your area. You don't want to miss our new format!

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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DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

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WWW.MISSALA.COM

2ND VICE PRESIDENT-VA&R CHAIRMAN



What beautiful weather; perfect for a membership drive, don't you think? There are many women in our communities that would love to be a part of our wonderful organization, but they haven't been given the opportunity. Fall festivals are happening just about every weekend, and we know that women of all ages attend. These would be a perfect place to set up a table with information about us and what we do for our veterans and children. Have your scrapbook there so people can see that not only do we do good things, we have fun doing them. It's time to promote "us"---we are a special group of ladies and we need to let everyone know who we are and what we do.

Mid-winter Conference will be here before we know it and I want to have a Wall of Honor covered with pictures

of our veterans. I would like all members to send me a picture of the veteran that gives you your illegibility or any other family member that served---if possible one in their uniform, but that isn't necessary. We should honor our veteran's everyday and this will serve as a small token of our appreciation for their service, whether it's in the past or at the present time. The pictures can be taken to the Area Conferences, emailed, mailed to the Department Office or to me. (204 Poindexter Dr., Pass Christian, MS 39571)

From what I hear, our Conferences will have a different format, with more information, so please get as many Unit members as possible to attend. As always, I'm sure we will have some entertaining moments and you don't want to miss out.

The date for the Stand Down at the Biloxi V A Hospital has been changed to Oct. 21. Jo Tisbury is still in need of new sweatshirts for this event. For more

information you can reach Jo at (228) 497-3172.

I hope you have mailed your mandatory Assessments to the Department office, as some of that goes towards our Christmas Cheer, which will be given out Dec. 19. We gladly accept any donations, above the assessment amount, for the Cheer gifts and for the Christmas Gift Shop to be held Dec. 5 & 6. Volunteers for the Gift Shop are needed and Jo Tisbury can be contacted for more information on this, as well.

October 13 will be the 236th birthday of the U.S. Navy.

October 29, NAC, Corinth

Hope to see you there!

God bless our military personnel and their families.

For God and Country,

Rose Blanchard, 2nd Vice

FOR THE RECORD - DEPT. HISTORIAN



"YOU CANNOT SURVIVE IF YOU DO NOT KNOW THE PAST."
- ORIANA FALLACI, ITALIAN JOURNALIST (1929-2006).

HISTORY: Pass it on...

In Kansas City's Grand Avenue Temple, National Commander Emery called the first session of the Auxiliary's Convention to order. A national Constitution and Bylaws modeled after that of the American Legion, was adopted. The preamble of the American Legion Constitution was adopted, with the insertion of the phrase "to participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of the The American Legion." It was at this convention that the name of the organization was officially changed to the American Legion Auxiliary. The Auxiliary was completed in 1921 with the election of

Ms. Edith Hobart of Cincinnati, Ohio, to lead the organization in its first year.

I hope you are finding these tidbits of history informative and enjoyable. It gives us a back-look at what the Auxiliary was about at its beginning, why it was formed and all the planning and building it has been through to reach where it is today.

Now, think about the history of your Unit and how important it is to record the events of your Unit. It may not be on as grand a scale as National, but it just as important to you and your Unit as this is to the organization as a whole. Future members of your Unit will enjoy reading and learning about your activities through the years.

Develop a system to archive your communications such as newsletters,

handbooks, guide books, brochures and program information. I hope you have already begun to collect these items. Your method of recording can be included in your mid-year and annual reports. The Plans of Action will be distributed within the next week and during the fall conferences and will be more detailed.

Remember that Toucan Make A Difference if you feel you need help with your history projects. Encourage your Senior and Junior Historians to participate in the Veterans History Project. Go to <http://www.loc.gov/vets/kit.html> to learn more. This will be a wonderful to **Honor Their Service**.

For God and Country,

Carolyn Tardy, Historian

NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D

We visited Pascagoula's birthday party, and they put on a lovely luau. Everyone is really getting into the tropical theme of this year's Toucan Make a Difference. It's great to see people having fun. It's also great to see the new members starting to flock in as a result of it. Keep up the great work, ladies; your efforts will be rewarded as you look at service not self as we honor those veterans who have and are serving our country.

Nancy Sanders and I will be leaving for Indianapolis this weekend to attend the President's/Secretary's Conference. This is a once in a lifetime event for me, and I am looking forward to coming back with some much needed information to help me serve you better this year as your President. Thanks for this opportunity.

For God and Country,

Mary Smith-Ried
Department President

MEMBERSHIP



It was touch and go there for a while. I didn't know who was going to go down first, Dept. Secretary Nancy or me. We begged and cajoled, pleaded and fretted. At times it didn't like we were going to reach our first membership milestone of 55% by Oct. 6, but then, at the last minute, the Dept. of Mississippi members came through, and we got there by the skin of our teeth!

Heavens, thank you all that turned in membership when you heard our call.

President Mary talked about having fun with seeking out new members...hope you read her message!! It is great fun to meet new folks that have the same interests as we do. We're all united by one common thread—honoring a very important veteran (s) in our life.

Yep, that's the simple message. That's the reason we all join, isn't it? In a nutshell?

Now, what we have to do is find others like us "out there." When a young woman tells you that she has no time to

join or can't attend meetings, remind her that she has a VIP in her life who she could honor by joining our ranks.

And, when her life does allow her to VOLUNTEER FOR GOOD PROJECTS, we'll be here, waiting for her.

Also, remind those who don't attend our meetings and wonders why they should continue their yearly payment of dues: their dues supports our programs and service projects. If they can't or won't attend meetings, at least they will know that their "gift" of renewal is the best way to support our efforts.

National Membership Vice Chairman Flora Jean Craig, who is a very wise woman, wrote an article recently that I wanted to share with you all. Please take another moment to read her attached article and share with your other members. It hits the nail on the head, as they say.

DON'T STOP WORKING MEMBERSHIP—I KNOW I WON'T.

For God and Country,

Angela Kilcrease, Chairman

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER - DEPT. CHAPLAIN



The Fall Season is upon us, so let's take a look at some reminders for upcoming events. The Fall Area Conferences provide us with the opportunity to share our ideas and projects with others. Remember, much of what we know we learn from others. Be anxious to share your ideas with others and patiently hear what others have to say.

A good idea is to have unit chaplains provide a short reminder for God's blessing on each meeting and ask for harmony among all members. Now is the time to prepare for the Veterans Day celebration. If your unit or post does not host one, plan to visit some place which does.

Monthly Reminder--send in prayers for the Department prayer book.

For God and Country,

Patricia Trest
Department Chaplain

Thought for the month

Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

Philippians 2:3

In our Thoughts and Prayers:

Condolences to Sue Sprayberry, member of Carthage Unit 168, and the family on the recent passing of her husband, Howard Sprayberry.

NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES



Hello Juniors and Junior Leaders,

Do you know why we have Junior Auxiliaries? So the girls may be motivated to continue their membership into adulthood--into the American Legion Auxiliary!

Our purpose is that the eligible young women who are Juniors are engaged in positive, mission-based volunteer opportunities serving our Veterans.

And all the while, we are having fun doing it. We, as Leaders, are guiding meeting which are meaningful and fun, while girls are learning Auxiliary traditions. Activities such as: flag presentations, flag etiquette, learning the national anthem, participating in the pocket flag program, volunteering at VA medical centers, or participating in the Veterans History Project.

The Junior Handbook can be downloaded (36 pages) for free from National. It is a fantastic resource for girls and leaders. Everything you need to know is covered in the Handbook: Membership and Eligibility, Junior Activities Chairman Info, Opportunities, Scholarships, Resources, Ceremonies, How to Conduct a

Meeting, How to Install Officers, Prayers, Songs, and Poems. WOW!! (This is great stuff!!) Every Junior Auxiliary should own a Handbook.

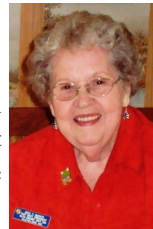
It is easy to share your love of the American Legion Auxiliary with your children and grandchildren, the memories and the traditions of our Country. Remember, you only need two girls to begin a Junior Unit. You can build from there. WE HAD A GREAT REPORT AT THE STATE CONVENTION IN JULY. Let's do it again, by starting more Junior Units this year.

For God and Country,

Velma Harrington, Chairman

LEADERSHIP

Before we can be good leaders, we must first know and teach to all the members:



- The history and traditions of our organization
- Our purpose and principles as outlined in the Preamble
- Our responsibility to the veteran, his/her family, and to our country.

As a member of the largest women's

patriotic organization in the world, the American Legion Auxiliary, I have been mentored by many past Presidents at the Unit, District and Department levels. It is my honor to quote some of these Past Presidents:

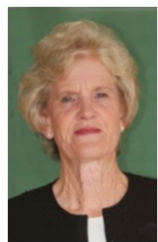
- "A successful leader is one who is self-aware, persistent, has a good sense of humor, is knowledgeable of her skills and her organization, has a high self-esteem, listens to her intuition, is open to change and is assertive but sensitive."
- A leader prepares for more responsibility. There are no born leaders, Leadership skills are acquired. They are developed by practice and polished when you put them to use.
- The position of leadership is not one that has any set rules because the results of a leader depend upon the personality of the person in the position and their interaction with the people they are working with."

Developing new leaders is crucial to the future of the American Legion Auxiliary. Many units are struggling to find leaders to replace those who are getting along in age or those who are burned out from carrying the load for many years.

As always, For God and Country,

Inez McCain, Chairman

POPPY



As you know, the purpose of the poppy program is to honor our veterans for their service and sacrifice, and to educate the public about the financial benefits this program has on our veterans. Planning is essential to any program, and it is certainly not too early to begin discussions regarding Poppy distributions that works well for you. While each unit's poppy distribution may be different, I would like to see all units participate to generate funds for the needs of our veterans.

Plans of Action: New thing this year will be Poppy fields across America. I am encouraging all units to work with local garden clubs, city governments and their entire community to plant a Poppy fields.

Plant the seeds and watch the poppies grow all in a row.

For God and Country,

Shirley Lamb-Turner, Chairman



NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

PUBLIC RELATIONS



As we prepare for our Fall Area Conferences, our year is well under way. The Installation of Officers has been completed. Veterans Day is just around the corner. Your Unit's history has started to take shape. Photos of Unit activities have been posted on Facebook. Newsworthy items have been printed in newspapers throughout the state as you have begun to organize and store your clippings for prosperity. We are in full swing. Units and committees are meeting with the game plan in hand. So what is next?

Since most of us function on a shoestring budget, how do we find that free publicity that attracts the public's attention and keeps them interested in supporting the ALA and our Veterans? Geoff Simon, of the online marketing team, *SSPR Public Relations*, suggests a few concepts that I have adapted for our use. A major purpose of PR is to place media articles about your Unit in local and national publications. Such articles lend your credibility in the eyes of the public. People often think about joining an organization after reading an article about it in a newspaper or a magazine. Another function of such publicity is to create an appealing image for the American Legion Auxiliary and encourage membership identification and loyalty. In other words, local media exposure is one of the most valuable forms of advertising available. Newspapers and magazines need to see your Unit as a topic of interest and they want to share your activities with their subscription audience. Develop a relationship with the newspaper editor and reporters in your hometown. Use photos to enhance your unusual story. Find a unique angle. You are members of your community and your Unit is a vital part of your town's success. Include your junior members and their achievements like the Poppy Poster Contest Winner or delegates to Girls State. Showoff your senior members who take time to volunteer at the local soup kitchen or do devotions for the residents at the local nursing home or Veterans Home. The list goes on and on. Once you are established in the public eye, keep the name of the American Legion Auxiliary synonymous with your name.

Encourage each other, work hand in hand, brag on one another and what your Unit is doing. Invite potential members to join you. Show your unity, support and harmony. That is a major attraction of joining an organization. What are the members like and what do they have to offer individuals or our community? Are they giving of themselves to others? Do they want to give back???? Think on these things as you put out the welcome mat and send out your PR notices. Do not forget to keep an original newspaper clipping for the Department Press Book and pass it on to me as the events take place. My address is 1015 Miller Drive, Clarksdale, MS 38614 or save the postage and bring it with you to Fall Area Conferences or January's Mid-Winter Conference in Vicksburg.

For God and Country,

Mary Jo Abraham, Chairman

National Auxiliary Introduces *In the Know eBulletin* as Supplemental Publication on Programs

Want to keep up to date with the latest news from National Headquarters on American Legion Auxiliary programs? Starting Sept. 16, you can have biweekly updates sent straight to your inbox. Our new *In the Know eBulletin* replaces the weekly postal mailing sent only to Auxiliary leaders.

Through a free email subscription now available to all members, you'll receive *In the Know* automatically, as will subscribers to the Auxiliary's electronic mailings. Each issue of this new publication will contain a brief write-up on various Auxiliary programs and committees and a link to click on for longer articles. To sign up, send National Headquarters staff your email address at ebulletin@alaforveterans.org. Please rest assured that we will not share or sell your email address to anyone. Period.



DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MISSISSIPPI

ALSO, JOIN: ALA SOUTHERN DIVISION

COMMUNITY SERVICE



The American Legion Auxiliary's Community Service program is based on the premise that no organization has a right to exist within the community without giving something to that community in return.

Community Service projects help to make our communities better places to live. Unit Chairmen should study community needs, recommend and head up projects, raise funds and donate time to accomplish specific objectives. Units should also provide assistance on Community Service projects in coordination with The American Legion Posts and work with other organizations to implement practical, worthwhile projects for the benefit of the community.

This month's Auxiliary-recognized National day of service is Make-A-Difference Day on October 22, and every Unit is encouraged to plan or participate in an activity to provide a meaningful contribution in your community.

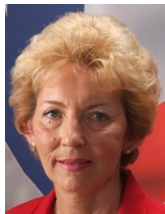
May God keep on blessing America,

Diane Cantrell, Chairman



FROM THE DEPT. SECRETARY

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES,
AND THEIR COMMUNITIES



Greetings from the Department!

Our Department office has been blessed. My printer and copying problems have all been erased. Our Department President, Mary Ried, and her husband, Don, donated a big stand-alone color printer that is top of the line. Then, my own home unit, Hovious-Grayson Unit 112, purchased a large copy machine that not only collates, but STAPLES the paper! It does everything I tell it to, and that's a lot! Thanks President Lorene and Unit 112 for taking care of my needs. If you have the opportunity, please thank these donors for their contributions to the American Legion Auxiliary. Without their donations, we would be holding fund raisers for about \$6,000 to cover these costs which are necessary to the running of our Department.

The Plans of Action have been printed and are with this newsletter. Since there will be break-out sessions at our Fall Conferences this year rather than us all sitting and listening to the droning on about our programs (which is in the enclosed Plans WHICH YOU SHOULD READ), your whole unit should find something interesting to attend. Some examples are: Duties of District Presidents/Vice Presidents; Membership and its necessity; How to Report on Programs; and I will be giving a workshop on duties of the secretary, new proce-

dures, forms, how to file tax reports, our membership program, duties of the treasurer, etc. How does that sound? Then, after lunch we will all get together and have a jam session on what direction the American Legion Auxiliary is heading and our role as a member. We promise you will not be bored. Please bring your membership people, your secretary/treasurer and all members who are interested in the Auxiliary's mechanics.

I could not let this chance go by without saying a big WHOO HOO for our Department reaching it's 55% goal. You all did it—I was worried—but you did it! Thank you so much for helping us reach our first membership milestone.

In closing, call or email me if I can assist you in any way. Hope to see you all at the Fall conferences. REMEMBER: I will be attending President/Secretary's Conference in Indianapolis with President Mary from Sunday, Oct. 9, through Wednesday, Oct. 12. I have many workshops to attend myself there and will have my phone off for most of the time; however, I will check my messages before retiring for the night during that time and will try to return emergency calls.

See you at the conferences!

Nancy Sanders

DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY COOKBOOK

Ok ladies, 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 October 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 1/2 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 1, 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 October 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



“Honoring Their Service”

American Legion Auxiliary National Membership Bulletin

September 28, 2011

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Flora Jean Craig – National Membership Vice Chairman

One wildly important goal! National President Kris’ One Wildly Important Membership Goal (WIG): “Through mission delivery, the American Legion Auxiliary will become so appealing to people who care about veterans that membership will increase.” What happens to the new members who join because of the good things we do in our communities? Do we forget them? Do we mentor them? Do we allow them to have a voice in unit decisions? Do we welcome their suggestions for new unit projects or do we think we can only do the same projects we have done for years and years?

Getting new members is often easier than getting members to renew. WHY? Do we care enough to find out why? Perhaps members don’t renew because the answer to most of the questions in the first paragraph is “NO.”

Our units will grow only when we welcome new members and encourage their participation. Often long-time members feel threatened by new and/or younger members. Convince these members to become mentors to the new members and this will often eliminate potential problems between the two groups. Friends usually sit together in the unit meeting and ignore visitors/new members. Where does this leave the new member? If she is ignored, she probably will not return. An easy solution is having the mentor sit with the one she is mentoring. Others will then more quickly accept her and her “fresh” ideas. Just think how many more veterans can be helped with these additional volunteers! The most productive unit is one that involves ALL members.

REMEMBER – “If we always do what we’ve always done, we’ll always get what we’ve always got; and if nothing changes, nothing changes.”

***There are 800,000 women in the American Legion Auxiliary.
What if everyone signed up one new member?
What if just half of our ranks signed up one new member?
The results would be magical!!***