

Department of
Mississippi

Magnolia



AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY

Serving veterans, their families and their communities

Monthly
Newsletter

Sept. 2010



GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



It is Great to be an American!

AND it is GREAT to be a member of the BEST DEPARTMENT of the Largest Patriotic Women's Organization In The World!

I'm happy to have a week or two to rest up after the whirl-

wind trips up and down the State of Mississippi and to the National Convention in Milwaukee. I thought I had traveled all over Mississippi during my 74 years, but was pleasantly surprised and happy to go places I had never been. Thanks to all of you for your hospitality to John and me. The memories are great!!

Thanks to all of you who attended our successful Membership Rally at Post 112 in Jackson. A good time (and good food) was had by all. Mary and Sarah planned a great kickoff for the year

2010-2011. Thanks to 112 for inviting us to their Post.

Our membership is coming in good. Please don't forget our first goal...60% by September 24. Thanks to all of you, we made all our goal dates last year and was one of only three departments to make 100%. Angela looked "good" going up to accept the award. And, she was MIGHTY prissy going up on stage to accept the NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S A W A R D F O R EXCELLENCE FOR THE DEPARTMENT!

(Continued on Page 2)

1ST VICE PRESIDENT-MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN



WE DID IT LADIES!

The National President's Award of Excellence!!

You all worked so hard, got your reports in, and Mississippi reaped the award at National Convention. You all made us proud. Thank you, thank you, and thank you. Let's

get started again this year and do the same. Jackson has already turned in 100% membership and many others are on their way. Let's keep up the momentum now that we know we can do it!

I know that all of the others that attended National will be tooting the horn, so I will make my message short this month.

I just got home as I stayed

over for the 8 & 40 Convention also. Area conferences will be coming up soon, and our first membership goal of 60% is due on September 24. I am hoping to put several stars on our membership board for Mary at these conferences. We have a very short time to accomplish this first goal, but I have confidence that we can do it.

For God and Country,

Mary Smith-Ried

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**HOMECOMING FOR
PRESIDENT LYLES
AND COMMANDER
MCGUIRE**

SEPT. 24, POST 160
PASCAGOULA, 6-8 PM

**CENTRAL AREA
CONFERENCE**
OCTOBER 16,
COLUMBUS

**NORTHERN AREA
CONFERENCE**
NOVEMBER 6,
GREENVILLE

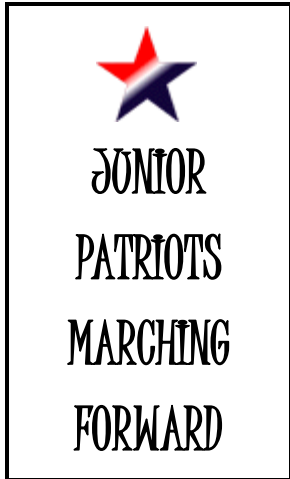
**SOUTHERN AREA
CONFERENCE**
NOVEMBER 20,
RALEIGH

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

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.MISSALA.COM



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE CONTINUED...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Our new national President, Carlene Ashworth of Texas, has chosen “THE POWER OF ONE” as her theme... all of us, as one person comprising one unit, one District, one Department, etc. We hope to have her visit Mid-Winter Conference so you all can meet her.

At another location in this Newsletter, Unit 160 President Amelda Watkins is issuing an invitation for all to attend a “Homecoming” reception for Department Commander Ken McGuire and me on Friday, September 24, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. I hope to see a lot, if not all, of you there. I beg you all to be there!!!

Keep your membership coming in and make plans to support all our programs...our Plans of Action are in the making and should be out soon.

For God and Country,

Mary Lyles
Department President

FOR THE RECORD - ROSE BLANCHARD, DEPT. HISTORIAN



IT IS GREAT TO BE AN AMERICAN!

Congratulations to the Department of Mississippi for making some “buzzzz” and for creating another chapter in our history. What a proud moment it was to have our name called for the top Department in the country and be 100% plus in membership. This would not have been possible without you and the history reports you turned in...thank you!

This is a perfect example of the importance of keeping a Unit history each year. Yes, I understand, it’s not an easy task, but it is a very important one. Now is the time to set up a system to keep your notes, pictures and information needed to write your reports and create your scrapbooks, for the end of the year. This system could be anything that will make the organization easy for YOU. A set of envelopes, an expandable file folder, shoe boxes, etc., are just a few suggestions. Most of us dread the idea of trying to sort

pictures and other dated items, at the last minute, so by starting now, it will make reporting much easier later. This also applies to your juniors, so be sure to pass this information on to them and encourage their participation in the history program.

We are asking that you send copies of pictures, news articles and any other items you may have, so that they will be included in the scrapbook, being prepared for President Mary.

Feel free to contact me anytime: (228) 313-6952 or ro62se@hotmail.com



VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT
WWW.MISSALA.COM

JOIN OUR GROUP ON FACEBOOK



CHAPLAIN’S CORNER—CAROLYN TARDY, DEPT. CHAPLAIN



Have you ever been engaged in a difficult task and felt that you had reached the end of your proverbial rope? Have you ever wanted to say, “I quit?” Perhaps you did quit.

Often when I recognize that I am reaching this point, I think of the story that is told of the great Winston Churchill who was the prime minister of England when England was under attack by

Hitler’s war machine. Facing insurmountable odds, he rallied his fellow countrymen to the cause of freedom. Under his leadership and with a little help from their allies across the big pond they defeated Hitler and the Axis powers. This changed history and propelled freedom in the world.

After WW II, Mr. Churchill was asked to speak at a college ceremony for graduates. He got up, went to the podium and said, “Never, Never, Never Give UP.”

He then returned to his seat and sat down. Churchill spoke from experience. He could have delivered an hour-long speech and not have said more than those few, yet powerful words expressed.

So when you feel discouraged, disappointed or in despair, remember: never, never, never give up!

Please continue to keep our veterans, our military and their families, and our bereaved Auxiliary members and their families in your prayers.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Allow yourself to receive help from someone today, whether it is allowing someone to open a door for you or accepting someone’s offer to help you with an overwhelming task. Then, ask God to present you with someone you can help. You will be blessed on both accounts.

NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

NEC



Wow, what a wonderful National Convention! The Department of Mississippi certainly "made some buzz," and I'm very proud and honored to have been a part of "the moment." Thank you all for helping to make this an award-winning year. It was definitely a year I will treasure for a lifetime.

I attended my first National NEC meeting on your behalf at the close of the convention. It was an efficient meeting, and the appointments of National Secretary and the National Committees were ratified.

There is much activity on the National level to strengthen our governance, procedures and services. Being appointed to the Long Range Strategic Planning Committee, I hope I will be able to represent all of you, our grass-roots heroes, well.

Wish us luck as we proceed to make our great organization even greater!

Angela Kilcrease, NEC

NATIONAL SECURITY

WE NEED UNIT CONTRIBUTIONS NOW!

Camp Shelby expects more than 7,000 troops to come in and out during the next three months.

So, we need to be ready to provide more popcorn supplies and hard candy, as well as provide Pocket Flags.

If your unit has some extra money, please consider sending a donation to the Camp Shelby Chaplains Project to help us purchase supplies for this worthy cause. Send your donations to the Dept. Office today. Thanks for your help!

Also, thanks goes to Kathy Williams of Unit 24 in Hattiesburg for taking our latest stock of supplies to Camp Shelby.

Angela Kilcrease, Chairman

NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Mississippi once again has been honored by having one of our members appointed to a National Chairmanship for 2010-2011.

Kathy Dungan, who just completed a successful year as National AEF Chairman, will serve as National Legislative Chairman. Kathy is no stranger to National appointments, having served as NEC and Alternate NEC for Mississippi, and Southern Division Chairman for the AEF Committee, Girls State Committee, and Children and Youth Committee. She is a member of Drane-Prine Unit 79 in Wesson and has been a member of the Auxiliary for more than 30 years, with her eligibility from her father.

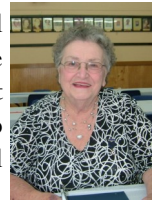


Immediate Past Department President Angela Kilcrease was appointed to serve as Vice Chairman of the National PR Committee. She also was appointed as a member of the National Long Range Strategic Planning Committee.

Many congrats and best wishes to these National appointees!

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

While at the National Convention, I had the opportunity to represent you by attending a group seminar that studied Governance.



The Constitution & By-laws of our organization is the governance document under which we operate. As proud Americans shooting for the stars this year, we need to make sure every Unit has a current Constitution & By-laws & Standing rules.

As your C & B Department Chairman, I am drawing up a new sample C & B for those of you who need a C & B to use as a guide.

What I need right now from each Unit is the name and address of your Constitution & By-laws Chairman. Please send me her name, address, phone number, and e-mail address. I want to work with each of them to write or revise your C & B.

Thanks to Waveland unit 77 for sending me your newly revised C & B. It is really well written. Thanks for a job well done.

Please get those names and addresses to me as soon as you can.

Also remember it's great to be an American, and it's great to be a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Mississippi, the **NUMBER ONE** Department in the Nation.

"IT IS GREAT TO BE AN AMERICAN"

Low Wilkerson, 201 Bay Oaks Dr., Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

228.493.2582; mawmaw5x@aol.com



NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Juniors and Junior Leaders,

It is ***Back to School*** time, and a great time to reorganize your Junior Program.

There are plenty of projects for Juniors to become interested in: adopting a veteran's family, the Pocket Flag Project, the Junior Patch Program, and of course, Juniors volunteering along side the Senior members in Post and Unit activities.

Juniors may also become active through the Poppy, Education, Veterans Affairs, and Children and Youth Programs.

There are many opportunities for Juniors to participate--even by including one or two Juniors in your activities, especially if your Unit is small. It is encouraging our Youth for the future.

For God and Country,

Velma Staley Harrington,
Chairman



CHILDREN & YOUTH

Another year of fun and work for the Children & Youth has begun, we have just returned from the National Convention in Milwaukee and heard some very interesting reports.

This year lets strive to help our children of our active military and our veterans and to all the children who we know are in need.

Please be on the lookout for some deserving youth for the Youth Hero Award, as these kids deserve recognition for their brave act.

School has started, and school supplies are needed by some kids. Visit the schools and find out what you can do to help some needy kid.

Remember to keep records of all you do at your meetings and when time comes to report, you only have to check your notes. If I can help in any way, please let me know: Ph: 662.226.1846 or email: rmerriman24@yahoo.com

Rosemary Merriman, Chairman

LEADERSHIP

During the 2010-2011 year, we will emphasize the importance of learning more about the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary and the ways in which the unit officers can lead their members. The Leadership Committee also includes Brenda Newell of Pontotoc and Diane Cantrell of Gautier. We are certified instructors and will be available to help any District or Unit with a workshop. Feel free to contact any of us or Nancy in the Department Office to schedule a workshop or to help plan a meeting.

We hope to keep the Unit Presidents informed via the monthly newsletter, and it will be their responsibility to keep the Unit members informed. District Presidents and Vice Presidents, please help us by encouraging workshops at the Fall and Spring Conferences or any Unit meetings within our travel area. Remember that an "informed" member will be a better member; the more we know about our American Legion Auxiliary, the more we can do for our veterans, our children and youth, and our communities. More later!

Inez McCain, Chairman

YOU ARE INVITED

Jackson County Post and Unit 160 (Pascagoula) congratulates The Department of Mississippi Auxiliary for being selected for the National President's Award for Excellence at National Convention in Milwaukee.

The Post and Unit are hosting a Homecoming for The American Legion Department of Mississippi Commander Ken McGuire and American Legion Auxiliary Department of Mississippi President Mary Lyles on September 24, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m., at the Post home in Pascagoula. All are invited to attend.

For God and Country,

Amelda Watkins
Unit 160 President

PAST DEPT. PRESIDENTS' BUTTERFLY QUILT

Thanks to all our PDPs for contributing to the Butterfly Quilt that we gave our 2011 year President Mary Lyles to use for a fundraiser this year. The appliquéd squares were donated by a member of Glen Crosby Unit 165 and life-long friend of mine, Louella Williams, for me to put together with each square embroidered with the name and year of our Past Department Presidents who are still living. My thanks to Madeline Vuncannon for getting it quilted when my source was not available. President Mary, we wish you much success and happiness.

Inez McCain, PDP 1981

NEWS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRMEN AND MORE...

EDUCATION

In 2010, the 89th annual American Education Week will take place **November 14–20**. Each day during the week will spotlight a different aspect of school life:

- **Monday, November 15** Open House Day From national commemorations to local community events, millions of Americans celebrate public education.
- **Tuesday, November 16** Parents Day Schools invite parents into the classroom for a hands-on experience of what the day is like for their child.
- **Wednesday, November 17** Education Support Professionals Day—Individuals who provide invaluable services to schools are recognized for their outstanding work.
- **Thursday, November 18** Educator for a Day Community leaders are invited to serve as educators to get a glimpse at a day in the life of a school employee.
- **Friday, November 19** Substitute Educators Day This day honors the educators who are called upon to replace regularly employed teachers.

God bless you.

Rana Richmond, Chairman

PUBLIC RELATIONS

It is great to be an American and great to know some of the most dedicated hardest working women ever to be found – these are the women of the American Legion Auxiliary. While attending the Membership/Workshop in Jackson, I got a real sense enthusiasm and interest from all of these ladies who are looking forward to another year of working on all of the projects in the Plans of Action that are in store for this year.

Please don't let the hard work of your Unit go unnoticed by not reporting and

not publishing your efforts. Did you take pictures and place an article in your local newspaper for the State Convention, Installation of Officers, etc.? Now is a good time for all Unit PR Chairman to begin publishing and announcing your Unit's activities. Start collecting newspaper clippings, newsletters, fliers, invitations, and all other forms of Public Relations. Don't forget your local radio station, television, school and other interviews. Keep all your published clippings, and documents in a file in chronological order and it will save a lot of time and trouble later when you need them for reporting and making a press book. Do remember to thank your local newspaper or any other sources used it really does go a long way.

While at the Membership/Workshop, the ladies worked in several groups to come up with fundraising ideas. Thanks to Billie Burke who collected all of these ideas from the Chairman of these groups, I am able to present them to you. Some of the ideas included a 50/50 raffle, quilt/blanket raffle, silent auction, bake sale, yard sale, spaghetti dinner, poker run and a womanless wedding are just to name a few. All of the fundraising ideas mentioned the importance of setting the date, time and place in a timely and appropriate manner. Advertizing and publishing should also be done in the same manner. As always if there are any questions concerning Public Relations, just e-mail me at fountaintwo@bellsouth.net and I will be glad to help.

Diane Fountain, Chairman

VA & R

This is the beginning of a very busy time at most of our V.A. Facilities. **Biloxi V.A.** is gearing up for the Cruisin' the Coast on Oct. 5. This is an annual event

on the Coast, and many of the antique car owners bring their rides for the Veterans to see. Volunteers serve food, push wheel chairs, etc. If you would like to help, call Rep. Jo Tisbury 228.497.3172, and she will put you in touch with the person who will give you a job. The Fall Carnival will be on Oct. 23. Both are a lot of fun! Christmas Gift Shop is also coming up around the end of November or the first of December--a date hasn't been set as of yet. You will need to send in your donations for this event as soon as possible. Please make your check payable to the Department and indicate what it is for.

Kosciusko Rep. Sarah Davis reports that they are holding monthly birthday parties for the Veterans and had 17 this month. They also play Bingo on Tuesdays and Saturdays. We will have an update on the bed spreads next month. Congratulations to Ms. Sarah for being *s e l e c t e d* by the Kosciusko State Veterans Home as Volunteer of the Year. We are all proud of the work you do.

Collins Rep. Glenda Wheelis says that they are having parties there on the 3rd Saturday of every month. If you are in the area go by and visit.

Send me any news you would like to share about events involving service to our Veterans. If you are a Representative, Deputy Representative or a Unit VA&R Chairman, please send me your e-mail address if you have one. If you don't have one, maybe someone in your Unit has one and can pass on information to you. My e-mail address is brenda_k_new@yahoo.com or call me at 662.489.8550 if I can be of assistance.

Brenda Newell, Chairman



DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI

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

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

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.MISSALA.COM

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES,
AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

IMPORTANT 8 & 40 UPDATE

The American Legion Auxiliary and the 8 & 40 are no longer affiliated. The 8 & 40 adopted a new set of Constitution and By-laws and Standing Rules at its recent National Convention.

We are allowed to wear our existing pins but future pins can no longer bear the Auxiliary emblem. For those of you who are in the 8 & 40, I will be sending out a letter shortly with more details. I hope that our Partners will continue to support this very worthwhile organization that supports the children of our nation who suffer from respiratory diseases.

We will have a fundraiser at the Club house, Post 139 Bay St. Louis, on September 18 at 5 p.m. for a donation of \$10 (carry outs are available). If you can come, we would appreciate your support.

Mary L. Smith-Ried, Departmental Past Le Chapeau



FROM THE DEPT. SECRETARY



Greetings from the Department!

Greetings from the Department! After a most exciting trip to National Convention and watching our delegation as we received the most prestigious award that our Department could receive, I am emotionally tired but fired up to do what we need to do in order to compete again this year.

The most important part of this report is geared toward you units who have not completed your tax reports to the IRS. This Department has worked very hard for the past two years to insure that each unit has an EIN. The ultimate deadline is October! IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN YOUR NON-PROFIT STATUS, your Unit needs to not only to have its EIN, but you MUST file your 990 or e-card for this past fiscal year. Remember, if your Unit has under \$25,000, you can file an e-card on the IRS website. If your Unit has over \$25,000, you will need to contact an accountant and have a Form 990 filed. If all of this is not done before October 15, the IRS will be removing your non-profit status and you will most likely have to pay taxes on your Unit's income.

THIS IS SERIOUS. If you have a problem and do not understand, please call the Department at (601) 353-3681. I will help you.

I have finally learned the new membership system and will soon have it tamed. The program is still not complete, but National is opening up new programs every week. However, to date, this office has not been allowed to print a membership report for 2011. If there is a membership report attached to the newsletter, you will know that I finally got the approval!

Since this is the first newsletter of our new year, I would like to take this opportunity to convey to our now Past Department President Angela how proud we are of her accomplishments as President of our Department. Angela has moved Mississippi forward. On a personal note, I have a lifetime BFF! I love you, Angela. I would also like to welcome our dear Mary Lyles to the ultimate position of our new Department President. It's about time, Mary! I look forward to working with and for you and our officers this year.

Keeping your best interests at heart, I am,
for God and Country,

Nancy Sanders



2010

Fall Area Conferences!

CENTRAL AREA CONFERENCE

October 16, 2010

Post 69, Columbus

NORTHERN AREA CONFERENCE

November 6, 2010

Greenville (VFW Post)

SOUTHERN AREA CONFERENCE

November 20, 2010

Raleigh Community Center

**SPECIAL MEMORANDUM
SERIES 2009-2010**

DATE: July 30, 2010
FROM: Diane Duscheck, (National's) National Security Chairman (2009-2010)
SUBJECT: **CERT Training**

What an outstanding experience CERT training is! CERT—Community Emergency Response Team. I've finished my CERT training and would recommend the experience for almost everyone. The skills learned during CERT training are vital when there is an emergency in the neighborhood or at work but first responders are not immediately available, and are also helpful for preparing yourself and your family for possible disasters or emergency situations you might encounter.

Instructors are trained emergency personnel, including Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and emergency management personnel, and firefighters. CERT workers' goals are to be safe when volunteering, to provide leadership and organization, and to have an effective rescue. Training is a combination of classroom learning and practical application. Let me give you a peek into training.

The participant manual contains information on all emergency procedures that are taught in class. After the instructor demonstrates or has students participate in the demonstration, there is time to practice the skill. Skills include: treating life-threatening situations, bandaging, wound care, splinting, triage, establishing treatment areas, transferring a victim to safety, and conducting light search.

Fire safety, hazardous material identification, and fire suppression safety were particularly exciting. Manned with a fire extinguisher and accompanied by another CERT student, each of us had the challenge of safely putting out a roaring gasoline/ diesel fuel fire that roared and twisted 10 to 12 feet into the air. Each student was successful.

The final activity, the test, was to use all the information we had learned over several days of training to handle a disaster simulation—the aftermath of an earthquake. Our team organized, searched for victims, conducted triage and controlled life-threatening bleeding and unconsciousness, rescued the victims, and then assessed and treated non-life-threatening injuries.

Would everyone actually want to respond to an emergency situation and rescue victims? Probably not, but other roles are vital during the response to an emergency—preparing food for rescue crews, handling donations, answering the phones, documenting, comforting victims, keeping a database. There is a job for everyone.

How can you get involved? Go to <http://www.citizen corps.gov/cert/>. Select FAQ to get the answers to frequently asked questions. One question asks, "Is there a CERT near me?" and provides a State Directory to find the nearest CERT contact in any state and two US territories. I can't wait for you to get involved!

**IF A UNIT OR DISTRICT WANTS TO PUT ON A CERT TRAINING PROGRAM, PLEASE CONTACT THE
DEPT. NATIONAL SECURITY CHAIRMAN (ANGELA KILCREASE) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**