

# The Missouri Legionette



Official Publication for the American Legion Auxiliary of Missouri

Volume LXXIX

THE MISSOURI LEGIONETTE

AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER 2021

NUMBER 1

## President's Message



Department President  
Victoria Ornelas  
Unit 55, District 1

My term as your Department President is beginning. I *THANK YOU* for your support. My theme for this year is *Women Veterans*. My project is our Department Office that still needs some improvement.

Congratulations to all Districts and Units that earned awards at Department Convention. It's amazing that so much was accomplished even with the COVID-19 virus. You did a fantastic job serving our veterans. I am so proud of all that you do for the veterans, American Legion Auxiliary, and the entire American Legion Family.

Congratulations to the 2021-2022 Department Officers, Department Chairmen and committee members, and Unit Presidents. Working together, we can accomplish our goals. I hope to visit the Districts and some Units to meet many dedicated members.

Let's instill *patriotism* in our next generation.

I hope to see many of you at Fall Conference in October.

## Past Department President



PATTY GARRETT  
April 5, 1949 - July 12, 2021

Patty Ann Carrington Garrett, of Battlefield, MO, passed away peacefully July 12, 2021, with family by her side. A memorial service was held 3:00 p.m. July 25 at Campbell United Methodist Church in Springfield, MO.

Patty was born in Miller, MO, on April 5 to Melba and Ed Carrington. She attended Miller High School and later graduated from Oklahoma State University. She married the love of her life, Arwood "Butch" Garrett, on June 9 in Miller.

She spent her early career as a high school teacher, but the majority of her professional life was being a nutritionist working with pregnant

and new mothers. She was an early advocate of the kale revolution; however, she had a healthy appetite for sweets that was evident with her special talent for making sugar cookies.

Patty was very involved in many civic and religious organizations. She was a 50 plus member of the Order of the Eastern Star, where she served as a past Grand Officer. She was very active in the American Legion Auxiliary, serving as the Department of Missouri President 2010-2011. Prior to this honor she held offices at the Unit and District levels. She was also active in the 8 and 40 as a national officer and past Chapeau. She served as president for the Master Gardeners Club and found time to serve on other boards.

Her hobbies included a local doll club and quilting group. Patty was an active member of Campbell United Methodist Church. She went on two mission trips to Nicaragua with the Rainbow Network and sponsored the education expenses for several children in that country. She was a dedicated volunteer in many organizations and food banks, including serving as the volunteer manager at the Missouri Rehab Center gift shop for many years.

Patty was accomplished in so many different areas. She was an excellent cook and a talented seamstress and stitched beautiful embroidery patterns. She was an avid gardener and most importantly was a dedicated mother and grandma. Patty unselfishly gave her time and shared her talents to help others be more comfortable.

Patty is survived by husband Butch, daughter Brandy (John) and 3 children, son Bo (Anna), mother Melba, and brother Lee.

Memorials may be given to The Rainbow Network and Jacob's Ladder in Springfield, MO. The family wishes to extend our sincere thanks to the staff of Jacob's Ladder who cared for Patty and her family in her final days with such love and grace.

*There are many things in life  
That we cannot understand,  
But we must trust God's judgment  
And be guided by His hand,  
And all who have God's blessing  
Can rest safely in His care,  
For He promises safe passage  
On the wings of faith and prayer.*

-Helen Steiner Rice

## MEMBERSHIP

God Bless Our Women Veterans

2	2
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2	2
1	2

American Legion Auxiliary Dept. of MO

Louise S. Welch and  
Marybeth Roehr,  
Membership Co-Chairs

President Victoria Ornelas has chosen the theme for 2021-2022 as "WOMEN VETERANS." Many

women have served in the United States Navy, Air Force, Army, Marine and Coast Guard. There are over 53,391 women serving on active duty in an array of traditional (Administration, Medical, etc.) and non-traditional (Aviation, combat system, etc.) roles. Just as they serve every day, we must serve them through our membership. The history in the military clearly shows female service members as a force to be reckoned with.

Each District Membership Chairman was given a Membership Folder that included the names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of all District Presidents and Membership Chairmen; please utilize it to touch base with each other for ideas and information. Also included in the folder were goals for the year, District Challenges, and Award Goals. Each Unit has been given the Goal of one additional member than the total membership as of July 31, 2021. Will it be a challenge for some? By all means, but we are stressing that you can do it. It is important to increase membership to maintain the growth of our organization. We must seek different ways to get new members to join our patriotic organization to support the American Legion, Veterans, Military, and their families. Let's have fun recruiting and renewing those inactive members. Marybeth and I are anxious to see which Unit and District will get the first award.

Ladies, gather your military equipment, your walking shoes, and definitely your cellphone to prepare yourselves. Now you are ready to hit the road. Please look in the high places, and don't forget the low places as we across the towns and counties in your district to look for those who did not renew last year and members, of your own Legion Post members who have not been signed up. We know you hear this every year, but without new and renewed members our years are limited to have an American Legion Auxiliary on any level. We must keep growing so we can help veterans of all wars. **THEY NEED US! WE CANNOT LET THEM DOWN.**

REMINDER: We all know that the Membership year begins on August 1 each year; however, renewal forms from National will not be mailed until September 2021. Please pass along to Units to not wait for the forms to start recruiting and mailing in dues to the Department Office. You may have to call them or ask them at the next Unit meeting to please pay their dues. The second award is the Blue Ship Award on October 13, 2021. If you have not received the award information, please ask your District President or District Membership Chairman. If all else fails, please contact me or the Department Office.

So let's hear those engines roar and get off to a great start. Marybeth and I look forward to seeing you at Fall Conference in Jefferson City.

### MEMBERSHIP AWARDS 2021-2022

GRAY WINGS AWARD  
\$5.00 to first Unit reaching goal by September 18, 2021.  
(US AIR FORCE BIRTHDAY)

BLUE SHIP AWARD  
\$3.00 to first Unit in each Membership Division reaching goal by

October 13, 2021.  
(US NAVY BIRTHDAY)  
RED and GOLD AWARD  
\$1.00 to all Units reaching goal by November 10, 2021, 100% of your 2022 membership goal.  
Deadline November 10, 2021.  
(MARINE CORP BIRTHDAY)  
SEA AWARD  
\$5.00 to first District reaching goal by December 7, 2021.  
(PEARL HARBOR DAY)  
MILITARY AWARD  
\$3.00 to first Unit reaching goal of 125% by May 15, 2022.  
(Armed Forces Day)

New Unit Award: a \$25.00 gift certificate to American Legion Flag and Emblem Sales to first Unit chartered between September 1, 2021-May 31, 2022. Deadline May 31, 2022.

Award will be given to the Junior member signing the most new members up by June 1, 2022.

Must be in the Department Office by due date to be eligible.

If I can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me at 314-839-4920 (H), 314-324-0921 (C), or email louisewelcdh70@yahoo.com.

## Department 1st Vice President



Louise S. Welch  
Unit 444, District 10

I am honored to be serving as your First Vice President for the Department of Missouri. I congratulate all the newly elected officers. I pledge my support to Department President Victoria Ornelas. I look forward to working with Units and Districts as we continue to recruit new members and welcome our inactive members returning.

## Department 2nd Vice President



Sheridan Mires  
Unit 199, District 4

Thank you for electing me your Department 2nd Vice President. The opportunity to help improve the lives of our veterans in the VA hospitals and VA homes is an honor and privilege. This is a mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. I look forward to working with our wonderful, dedicated ALA Representatives in these facilities. I always enjoy helping with the Christmas Gift Shop.

I challenge each of you to take advantage of the opportunity to serve our veterans by contacting the ALA representative assigned to the facility of your choice.

## Department Historian



Shanna Jelinek  
Unit 65, District 15

Thank you for electing me as your Historian for the 2021-2022 year. It is truly an honor to serve such a wonderful organization. We just celebrated 100 years of history. I can't wait to see what we can do as we start the next 100 years.

As President Victoria travels around our great state, please send me stories any time she visits your Units and Districts. I will be recording all of President Victoria's travels, but I also want to hear about the wonderful and unique things you are doing in your Units and Districts as well. Have a great year!

## Secretary's Corner

Nancy Reeves,  
Department Secretary

Hello from the Department Office! Debbie and I are very busy as 2022 membership dues are arriving. We are also transitioning from the fiscal year.

A few things to remember for this new membership year. All new applications **MUST BE SIGNED** by the Post commander or Adjutant. Make sure all information is completed and you submit the correct amount of money due. Please *do not pay for PUFs*.

Allow two weeks for your numbers to show correctly on the biweekly report. Membership packets that were not picked up at Department Convention were given to District Presidents. If you have not received your packet, please contact your District President.

Renewal notices will be mailed from National September 15. If you have already paid, thank you and disregard the notice you just received.

We are excited to announce we can now accept dues payments via credit card and/or banking account. Through our Central Bank account, we can accept secure payments online two ways.

1. We can send you an invoice, and within that invoice, you can pay two different ways.

a. You can pay with a credit card.  
b. You can enter your banking information.  
**(Preferred Way)**

2. You can also pay by calling the office. We can collect your information by phone.

*We prefer you pay by entering your banking information since it is a lower fee rate.* Whichever way you choose, once you make a payment you will receive an email receipt. You must tell us in the description box what you are paying. Example: It could be membership dues, mandatory fees, or general donations. **YOU MUST SEND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION.**

So you are asking, "Can Units pay membership dues this way?" **Yes, you can.**

You can request an invoice or the link and pay your membership total dues. Then you will still need to send the **dues transmittal form and membership applications, etc.** You can send the supporting documentation via mail or scan and email to alamembership@outlook.com or dptmoala@outlook.com.

We are very excited about the new experience and look forward to working with you on it.

## MOVED?

New address \_\_\_\_\_

Please forward to:  
ALA Department Office, 600 Ellis Blvd.  
Jefferson City, MO 65101-2204

## NEWS FLASH!!!

At the recent Department Convention held at the Drury Convention Center in Cape Girardeau, the members voted to change The Missouri Legionette to quarterly issues.

Since we will be having 4 issues for the year, a new idea is set in motion. It will be necessary to establish new deadline dates. We will experiment with the following format:

August - September - October (Information due August 20)  
November - December - January (due November 20)  
February - March - April (due February 20)  
May - June - July (due May 20)

It is very important for program chairmen to adhere to the new deadline months. Please be eager to share your program information so the units can go back to volunteering and promoting our mission to assist the veterans and their families. Hopefully having the issues grouped this way will provide the information to the members when needed.

Keeping this issue with the list of program chairmen is necessary for future reference and reporting.



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## Department Chaplain



**Wanda Kinder**  
Unit 253, District 13

There can be no greater honor that serving as the American Legion Auxiliary Department Chaplain. It will be rewarding working closely with the members, committees, and officers. We will be reaching out to all for prayers, devotions, and poems for President Victoria's Prayer Book.



Let us reach out and touch someone with a helping hand. Help us never lose sight of your continual guidance in our lives as we work for our fellowmen. Amen

Be safe in your travels, but enjoy the Labor Day weekend!



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*Ellen Arnce* (2 years) ..... District 15  
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**Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Medical Center Representatives**  
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*Evelyn Cox* (2 years) ..... District 10  
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**Mexico Veterans Home**  
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**St. James Veterans Home**  
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Continued from Page 2

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## Americanism

**Catherine Auffert, Chairman**

2020-2021 had everyone thinking outside the box to promote Americanism in school, community and county. Units worked hard to keep up with the program.

The Americanism Essay Contest was limited due to COVID-19. There were only forty entries costing \$20.00. One instructor placed a picture of the winners in the county paper.

The Flag Program used DVDs ("For Which It Stands") that were given to nine schools to use in the fourth grade. Comic books ("Our Country's Flag") were used in two schools instead of DVDs. This was for over 300 students and teachers with 12 hours of time, and 4 Auxiliary members helped. Nine DVDs and fifty-two comic books were ordered. Twelve thank-you notes were sent to administrators, librarians, teachers, and secretaries who helped with the program.

Military Kids Day, Purple Up! was held. A Proclamation was issued by the Mayor to have April 15th as Purple Up! Day. Letters were delivered to schools, businesses, Armory, National Veterans Memorial, and other military facilities. A poster for display was also included. The local newspaper placed a notice in the paper. Citizens of the city and county were encouraged to wear purple to say "thank you." Sixty-two hours were spent on this project, and two Auxiliary members volunteered.

Youth Hero Awards/Good Deed Awards were promoted in a community. Letters were sent to schools, businesses, Armory, National Veterans Memorial, and military facilities asking them to identify all qualifying children in the area and report to the unit. One hundred two hours and two auxiliary members were involved.

Veterans were recognized in a variety of ways. A school sponsored a luncheon for veterans, and students presented a play. Veterans Day Programs were held but with limited attendance. Some schools livestreamed the activities on their social media pages. Children made cards that were given to Veterans who usually attended this activity. Letters were also written to Veterans and mailed. Cheer bags were made and delivered to Veterans at Christmas.

Patriotic holidays were celebrated. Letters to the Editor were sent to newspapers near various patriotic holidays. Mailings were sent to Junior members with puzzles, coloring pages, and informative articles for Memorial Day and Flag Day. Patriotic holidays and service branch birthdays were recognized on the unit's Facebook page. On Memorial Day, some units distributed poppies to Veterans at the parade.

Americanism in the community was shown in many different ways. Unit members made 100 lap blankets and other sewing items for veterans. One unit became involved in the Wreaths Across America project. The Junior members were involved by instructing them to honor our veterans by placing wreaths on their graves. One unit was the Grand Marshal in the community celebration parade.

Get Out the Vote was important this year. One unit worked with a school to create voting posters, which were displayed around town. The winners were given gold dollars. Candy was given to all who participated. Five members volunteered 61 hours with a cost of \$15.00.

## County Government

**Joan Vanfossan, Chairman**

Like most activities in our pandemic lives, County Government Days in 2021 were different from normal. Our planners had to be flexible and creative. I am happy to report that 4 counties in District 4 - Andrew, Atchison, Holt, and Nodaway counties - worked with the restrictions placed on them by the pandemic. They were able to host some version of a County Government Day this spring.

Andrew County has two schools. The Auxiliary and American Legion members worked together to host a traditional CGD for one school. The other school worked with the county officials to conduct a CGD via Zoom for their students.

Atchison County became creative, and the "techies" in one school worked with county officials to produce a virtual CGD video, which was then presented at the schools in the county. This different format had the advantage of giving schools flexibility in scheduling the showing of the video to students. This let the schools include those students who missed their CGD experience last year.

Holt County hosted a traditional CGD this year after missing the previous 2 years. Flooding canceled the event in 2019, and the pandemic prevented the event in 2020. The winning essay winner was Hanna Buckles from South Holt High School. Congratulations, Hanna!

Nodaway County's CGD is always the largest in the department with seven schools normally participating. Like in the other counties, Catherine Auffert, Chairman, had to be flexible and creative. Some of the schools sent students for a traditional CGD. Other schools did not send students to the courthouse but participated by distributing county history books to the students. These books told about the history of the county courthouse and outlined the duties of the county officials. To underscore the cooperation this program receives from the county officials, they visited Maryville Middle School, the largest school in the county. They presented a program for the students attending. A CGD program was tailored to meet the needs of each of the schools in the county.

In a normal year CGD events are also hosted in Districts 2 and 13. I did not receive reports from either district but hope they will be able to resume the program in future years.

This chairman is sad to report that District 4 and the Department of Missouri longtime County Government Chairman, Bette Williams, passed away on January 4, 2021, at the age of 96. The County Government program in the districts in this department was actively promoted for more than 50 years by Bette. She was instrumental in starting the program in District 4. The work she did for CGD was dear to her heart. She will be missed.

My thanks to all chairmen and units working to keep this American Legion program active.

## Chaplain's Report

**Shanna Jelinek, Department Chaplain**

Auxiliary chaplains provided the spiritual and emotional guidance when needed or requested, always sending with dignity and respect for the occasion. Chaplains provided emotional and spiritual support to the American Legion Family during the pandemic for two years.

Chaplains reported they use invocations and benedictions at their regular unit and district meetings. They use the monthly reflections provided in the National American Legion Auxiliary magazine. Additional prayers are added for emotional and spiritual support. Prayers were given at the installation of unit and district officers.

Chaplains also held four Chaplains services and memorial services for the deceased members. Charters were draped for those members. They also visited families of deceased members the their local funeral homes and conducted ALA memorial ceremonies at the funeral home. Cards of sympathy, get well, birthday, and new baby congratulations were sent. One unit completed a set of 50 cards for Honor Flight recipients. Several messages were sent to funeral home websites. One chaplain used prayers from the ALA Chaplain's Facebook page to post on her unit's Facebook page.

Units also sent flower arrangements, plants, angels, and

other trinkets to hospitals, members, and nursing homes.

One chaplain reported assisting with the flag retirement ceremony.

Some chaplains reported visiting veterans in hospitals, nursing homes, and shut-ins.

One chaplain performed the POW-MIA ceremony for Veterans Day at a local community school.

Memorials were given in remembrance of those who were lost this year.

It is with great sadness that I report the loss of Past Department President Carolyn Sanford (2017-2018) and JoAnn Cronin Past Department President (1990-1991) and Past National President (2006-2007).

Award for Best Unit Chaplain report - Unit 114, District 14, Babs Tyrone. Best District report - District 1, Gail Dietrich.

## Legislative Report

**Claudia Goodin, Chairman**

The Department of Missouri encouraged members to be knowledgeable on legislative issues so they could take action to support the American Legion's Legislative priorities. Information was distributed at conferences/conventions about how to subscribe to the American Legion's Legislative Action Alerts and Legislative updates. Along with this information were websites for U.S. Senators and Representatives. This information was also sent in email blasts and on social media and our Legionette newspaper. Members were also encouraged to "like" the ALA Legislative Facebook page. Many members reported they did this.

Members identified their U.S. Senators and Representatives along with the State Senators and Representatives. Liaisons were established for our U.S. Senators and Representatives. Each liaison was given information they could share with the American Legion's Legislative Priorities with their assigned legislators. Letters were written concerning "Pay the Coast Guard," "Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act," and the Debra Samson Act. Many reported they were extremely glad that the Legion Act passed. Units reported members contacted their legislators by phone calls, emails, and letters. Members have promoted the "get out to vote" initiative and encouraged members to be educated on each of the candidates and propositions that are on the ballot. Other members served as election judges. Members attended Town Hall Meeting with State Legislators.

I attended the Washington Conference in 2020 and attended virtually in 2021. I viewed all meetings I was assigned and listened to National Commander Oxford's testimony before the Joint Armed Forces Committee. I shared our committee's Legislative Bulletins with the Department.

Missouri is fortunate to have the "Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations" (MAVO). It brings all the Service Organizations together to promote legislation that benefits veterans and our active military. Missouri discovered working together as one united veterans group got more accomplished than working individually. MAVO works with our state Missouri Veterans Commission closely to serve our veterans. Their major emphasis is to support Missouri Veterans Homes and Cemeteries. They also support Veterans Service Officer Programs with grants. The Department of Missouri ALA is an Associate member of MAVO. I serve as the liaison for the Department of Missouri and attend their quarterly meetings. In January MAVO normally holds a "Veterans at the Capitol Day." This is a day where we visit our legislators with MAVO priorities. With COVID-19, we did not do this in 2021 as a personal visit but contacted them in other ways. I assist Missouri's TAL Legislative Chairman and MAVO Legislative Chairman in researching bills that have to do with veterans and military. We send reports listing bills and their status monthly to the MAVO members along with other interested parties and asked that they contact their respective legislators on these bills. You share the "MAVO Legislative Priorities" much like the American Legion does nationally.

If there is an urgent item that needs support an email blast is sent to members for action. MAVO's Legislative priorities are posted on our Department Facebook page and shared in the Legionette newspaper.



## Historian Report

**Sheridan Mires, Department Historian**

Documenting the history of our organization is very important at all levels to help us preserve our past as well as communicate with our present members and attract future members. This thought follows our Department President's Centennial theme of "Past, Present and Future." The events of the past year have given everyone an opportunity to think about events from the past and wonder what life was like for family members, businesses, schools, churches, and organizations during difficult times. Time goes by so quickly, and people pass away or are unable to pass the stories along. The only way to learn about periods of our time in our history is listen to stories, read articles, diaries, or journals; and look at pictures recorded during these periods of time. New or younger American Legion Auxiliary members want to know what the Unit did, who was involved, and how events impacted our veterans, communities and youth.

The pandemic certainly caused many changes and some out-of-the-box thinking to continue working the Auxiliary programs. During the 2020-2021 year some Districts have not met at all. Others have only met via Zoom, so it was very difficult to get reports from district Historians this year. Missouri has 189 Units, one Department Unit #1000, and an E-Unit. In an attempt to get some reports, the Unit 100th Anniversary Unit information and the Unit History report were mailed to the District Presidents to forward to the Units again. I didn't receive any District reports, but I did receive 28 outstanding Unit reports that were informative and detailed. I received at least one Unit report from 8 of the 16 Districts. District 3 had almost 70% of Units reporting. The information in this report is a compilation of Unit reports.

Units across Missouri were encouraged to develop a method to record and preserve their history and begin sharing the history they had available. The reports indicated a wide range of methods were used to record history, from a formal written document to scrapbook of photos of the Unit's activities and events. Units also reported they were working on organizing a cataloging the items in their Cavalcade of Memories. Many Units have cabinets or display cases for their Cavalcade of Memories. Others reported they need to purchase another cabinet to make room to display items recently gifted to them. Unit 288 has 10 large scrapbooks full of the Unit History from 1939 to 2021. This Unit will lose their Post Home this year. The members are concerned about preserving their history and other documents. They have newspaper clippings about the installation of the first Unit President and a Convention Program from the 1921 American Legion Convention in Kansas City. Unit 138 has a letter from the Navy Department informing parents of their son's death. The most important thing is he died on December 18, 1944, and the letter is dated February 27, 1945. Unit 199 has 2 small American Flags that were sent to two women deployed to Iraq so they would have a flag for their tent. An interesting fact is the two women returned home from deployment before the flags arrived, so the flags were returned to the sender. Unit 347's most treasured item in their display is the handmade gifts made by children to give to Veterans.

Several Units reported spending a lot of time researching the history of their Post and Unit. Five Units reported losing most of their Cavalcade of Memories items as a result from fire, floods, loss of Post Homes, or records being moved to members home when the Post sold and the records not being returned to the Unit when the member passed away.

There were four Units that reported they currently did not have a Post Home. Unit 169 reported the Post sold their building a few years ago to a Winery. The Unit Historian reported, "The winery owners are immense history buffs. The interior of the building continues to pay tribute to the servicemen of the area with pictures of former American Legion members and assorted military memorabilia. Two of their wines pay tribute to the namesake of the Post, Lincoln Red and Anderson White. (Lincoln and Anderson are the namesake for the Post). The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary still meet in their former Post Hall." The owner indicates that the spirit of those responsible for our freedom will live on and their honor treasured within the building's walls forever.

Only 5 Units indicated they displayed pictures of Past Presidents. No Units reported using modern technology in their displays. Several Units reported they plan to add more history scrapbooks that will show the impact the ALA has had on the community. No Unit reported participating in the Veterans' History Project. One Unit has members from three generations of their family who have served as Unit President.

Celebrating our 100th birthday gave Units a great reason to research, display and share their history with the younger generation and their communities. Many Units spent hours researching their history. The History report by Unit 117 included information about their Gold Star Members. One charter member was the Gold Star Wife of the Post's namesake who was killed in a secret pre-invasion exercise that was a rehearsal for the Normandy Invasion. According to her application the membership dues in 1946 for Unit 117 were \$2.50. Her daughter's application was also included in the report. She was a Gold Star Sister who lost two brothers in WWII. This Unit reported that 4 of their Gold Star members were also charter members of the unit. In the group of six Gold Star Sisters, two of the sisters were siblings who lost two brothers, and another sister lost two brothers. Another interesting fact Unit 117 shared was when the name of the Post was changed, the Auxiliary was charged \$1.35 to change the name on a new charter.

Using the information available, the eldest and longest-tenured unit members in Missouri were identified. The eldest unit member is Past Department President Rose Franz Unit 397, District 10. Rose is 103 years young. The longest-tenured unit member is Jane Powell, Unit 287, District 4. Jane is an 85-year member.

As Department Historian, I volunteered in the Department Office with a friend assisting me, trying to begin organizing files and records. One task was to organize the charters that have been returned to the office and designate a place for them to be stored. Most of them needed to be removed from the frame. The next task was to brainstorm ways to digitize our member applications for the past 100 years. This will be an ongoing project that will take many months, perhaps years, to accomplish.

Every day we are making history. There are many historical events over the years that many of us remember where we were and what we were doing when the event happened. For some the event is a vivid memory for a lifetime; other events seem to fade quickly. This is one of the main reasons we need to keep a written record through the years of the events and activities of our Units and Districts. Our history becomes memories that allow us to learn from the past, live in the present, and create the future.

## Past Presidents Parley

**Linda Shivers, Chairman**

The parley group is the Past Department Presidents who are the mentors of the ALA. We offer a nurse's scholarship each year to a graduating senior. COVID-19 caused convention to be canceled last year; therefore, the winner was announced at Department Convention in July. The 2019-2020 recipient was Morgan Herzog from

District 13. The 2020-2021 recipient was Brandi Allen, District 16.

The Past Presidents Parley also selects a member who has gone above and beyond in service and recognizes her as "The Outstanding Woman of the Year." The 2019-2020 woman of the year was Mary Rechten, Unit 397, District 10. The 2020-2021 winner was Maxona Lawler, Unit 45, District 16.

## AROUND THE STATE



**Unit 208, District 10** celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the ALA by displaying their charter. The original group met in an ice cream parlor. The first president held the office for 19 years. They recognized the 60-year member, Kay Rosner. The mayor of Manchester presented Unit President Mary Bryant a proclamation from the city. This is considered an important milestone in the history of Unit 208.

**Unit 393, District 3** members are using their sewing skills to provide bedding for the VA home in Cameron. These talented ladies are piecing quilts and machine-quilting them to provide warmth and comfort to the deserving veterans, the brave veterans who served our nation so faithfully.

## Membership

**Linda Maddox,  
Membership Co-Chairman**

Keeping the Promise for 100 years is a remarkable feat! The gung-ho spirit of the Veterans returning home from WWI united communities in the state. Most of the Posts in Missouri were named after sons killed in WWI in honor of their sacrifice. As we reflect on the past, our thoughts are with the families who organized the local Posts and Units in the communities. During the first 100 years of service, that gung-ho spirit had its ups and downs, creating a decline in membership. Those who are active are dedicated to the service of our Veterans, but few Unit members attend meetings. Young families are busy with youth activities, members are aged, and new vibrations are needed to spark the enthusiasm again. Over the next 100 years the Department of Missouri is shooting for the moon, Keeping the Promise that all Veterans are remembered and honored for their sacrifice.

Missouri has 16 Districts consisting of 173 Units. The 2021 membership goal was 9,641. Our actual membership is 8,575 with 88.94%; E Unit at 66.675% and Unit 1000 at 83.59%.

Membership packets were mailed to each Unit due to COVID-19. Then information was distributed to Unit members. Districts reported that some Units used monthly newsletters, Facebook pages, phone calls, emails, texting, mailing reminders, and face-to-face meetings to share information about renewals.

As an incentive one District gave a monetary award to units reaching 100%. A small gift representing the District membership theme was given to each unit indicating progress in membership goals. One Unit gives continuous membership certificates, another gives membership pins, and another Unit has a spring membership tea to reward faithful members. One District Membership Chairman awards a scratcher's basket valued at \$25 to the first Unit reaching 100%. Department Membership Chairman sets challenges with other Districts. The loser pays the winning District \$5.00 at Department Convention. Department also awards certificates and cash drawings for reaching certain goals during the year.

It is unknown whether the awards help retain or increase membership, but all units/districts seem to enjoy being recognized this way. Hopefully recognition helps Units retain membership and motivates them to work harder to recruit new members to reach goals and receive awards. Carrying a blank application with you makes it easy to recruit new members.

District Presidents stress membership in their meetings, newsletters, bulletins, and agendas. They are kept informed of the membership progress. A unit in District 11/12 has their own brochure that they distribute stating the events the ALA and Post have scheduled. They even held Zoom meetings when they couldn't gather. Even though COVID-19 hampered activities, Districts reported wearing branded ALA apparel at events, Veterans Day and Memorial Day. These photos are published in their local newspapers and on Facebook pages. Personal contact seems to be the top recruiting tool.

Successes were reported by the Districts. One Unit recognized a member with 72 years of continuous membership with a certificate published in the local newspaper. Another District reported being able to get a "0" unit to collect membership dues for the past two years. Several reported being able to recruit new members to replace deceased members for the past year.

Several recruited male spouses to join.

Some of the hurdles/difficulties faced were members did not want to personally ask a delinquent member to pay her dues. Death of members and aging members make retention difficult. Cost of membership dues discourages renewals. Changes in social norms do not encourage people to belong to organizations by being inactive, and/or working members leave all the volunteering to a few faithful. It was also reported that a major hurdle continues to be getting Unit members to remain active and commit to serving on a project or in a leadership role; therefore, current officers must wear several hats. It is difficult to recruit new members due to multiple Veterans Organizations that appear to have more media presence. The stay-at-home orders has been devastating to planned events and interaction with the community. Much was accomplished this year.

I received reports from Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 11/12, 13, and 15.

## Poppy Report

**Shanna Jelinek, Chairman**

Members across the state continued to keep awareness of the poppy and remembering the sacrifices of all veterans a priority the last two years. Events and participation may have been limited due to health and safety concerns; however, the 6 district reports received reported members were still out and about in their communities supporting the Poppy program.

Units involved all members of the American Legion Family, which means American Legion, ALA, Riders, and Juniors.

Units found ways to increase poppy revenue over the last two years. They held mouse races and displayed poppy items such as earrings, pins, and bookmarks held at dinner events.

After reading about the Girls Nation Project of making a wreath of poppies made by female veterans to place at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, it sparked an idea. One unit invited women veterans to their post to make a poppy wreath. They were excited to have it on display. Several ALA members met with Poppy Director Betty so they could assist at the event.

Units distributed the information and rules to schools about the Poppy Poster Contest. Units also left copies of the poem "In Flanders Field" and the "The Poppy Story." One unit sent \$28,863.00 in coupons to overseas Commissaries for use by the military and their families. Units participated in the Wreaths Across America program with one paying for five. One chairman worked with the town mayor, who signed a proclamation declaring May 25, 2020, as Poppy Day in her town. Another unit holds an annual Women Veterans Tea and presents each guest with a poppy pin. The same unit gives each new member a poppy pin at initiation.

A few units/districts participated in the 100-Year Poppy Pin Contest. The Department winner is CeCe Spink, Unit 369, District 1. Her design was a red felt poppy with a small President Truman pin in the center. It was forwarded to the National Chairman.

Poppies and cards were distributed to veterans. A few members mentioned joining the ALA Poppy Program Facebook page to gather ideas from across the country as to what other units have been doing with their poppies.

A total of \$5,588.00 was reported as being collected by poppy distribution the last two years.

Best Unit Report is Unit 404, District 11, Lori Yount. Best District Report is District 1, Linda Maddox.

## Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

**2020-2021 Report  
Cathie Goth, Chair**

Missouri Veterans Homes and Medical Centers remained on shutdown during the pandemic; therefore, personal participation has been limited. It was necessary for American Legion Auxiliary members to restructure traditional activities such as the annual Christmas Gift Shops and other methods of service to veterans and active military and their families.

Unit 404 in St. Louis volunteered for the second year at the Stand Up for Women Veterans Event held in downtown St. Louis in November 2020. With many of the unit activities canceled, the unit reached out and helped another organization, LPE (Little Patriots Embraced). LPE provides care packages, including a stuffed teddy bear for military families when a parent is deployed. These care packages are also sent to children on military bases in conjunction with resiliency and anti-bullying programs. Volunteers were needed to help count, inspect, and repack over one thousand bears. A second new activity Unit 404 acquired was becoming a Sponsoring Organization with Wreaths Across America. Through this partnership, wreath sponsorship was solicited for graves at military cemeteries and then provided volunteers to place the wreaths at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in December. In addition to placing wreaths, unit members also photographed the grave with wreath as requested. Then the photos were sent to their sponsor. Members were also excited to support the Jefferson Barracks Creative Arts Program for the first time. They spent \$115.00 purchasing foam boards and tablecloths used for displays.

Unit 5 in Jefferson City reports working many programs in their community, including Poppy Cards with special thank-you messages. These were distributed at a local veterans home. Over the past year this unit has donated \$3,140.00, volunteered 469 hours and driven 3609 miles.

District 1 reported Unit 360 has 35 veterans in four nursing homes. They send greeting cards such as birthdays and special holidays. A questionnaire was given to the veteran and/or caregiver asking what they wanted or needed for Christmas. This helped Auxiliary members personalize the Christmas gifts for them.

District 2 states that Auxiliary members could sew at home. They made more than 200 cloth face masks, lap blankets, clothing protectors, neck pillows, and walker and wheelchair bags. Unit 57 reported helping with Post Honor Guard burials for veterans. They sadly reported attending over 70 such events during the year. Unit 34 members decorated Christmas baskets for veterans at the Putnam County Care Center and included Christmas cards containing a gift card. They included active-duty men and women and a WWII veteran. A donation was sent to the local veterans suicide prevention and PTSD group.

District 6 reports many activities canceled, but Unit 131 in Warrensburg was able to present 140 baskets to veterans in local nursing homes. Unit members made 10 quilts and donated them to the tiny homes for veterans at Camp Valor in Holden, MO. They also donated \$150 to the Veterans Assistance League of the Warrensburg Veterans Home; also \$100 to the Warrensburg Veterans Home for the Tree of Stars. Stockton Unit 230 reports making quilts for homeless veterans. They also made adult clothing protectors

## Due Date November 20th

A gentle reminder that the *Missouri Legionette* is now published quarterly. The information for the November-December-January issue is due November 20. This is new to everyone, but adhering to the deadline will help accomplish our mission.

Program Chairmen, please note in the National American Legion Auxiliary August 2021 issue, page 47, the Action Plan previously compiled is not completely considered relevant now. It seems you will need to begin searching on the [www.ALAforVeterans.org/social-media](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org/social-media) page to gather ideas and find local needs to implement the programs.

and walker totes for the Mt. Vernon Veterans Home. Windsor Unit 82 provided a free meal for veterans on Veterans Day. Belton Unit 488 donated funds to the Veterans Community Project (Kansas City's tiny homes for veterans).

District 10 reports the Auxiliary members stepped up to the plate and delivered many treat bags including Halloween snacks. They wrapped gifts for veterans at Jefferson Barracks and John Cochran VMAC. Lap robes, hats, scarves, and ditty bags were delivered. Unit 397 made quilts and donated to veterans. Volunteers not being allowed in the facilities did not stop the members from providing service to veterans.

Unit 253 District 13 focused on collecting personal care items. The variety collected included gloves, shirts, pajamas, face cloths, towels, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes and toothpaste, mouthwash, soap, and more. The items collected were delivered to the Jefferson Barracks facility in St. Louis.

District 15 continues to report the Department of Missouri Representative to the Fayetteville, Arkansas VAMC. This Department keeps check on all meetings and activities. The representative was proud her unit donated \$150 to the Christmas Gift Shop. Lockwood Unit 372 gave individual cakes-in-a-jar to veterans in nursing homes or assisted living. These tasty treats were made of red velvet cake with cream cheese icing in jars wrapped

in holiday ribbon. For Valentine's Day, mini cherry pies were made for veterans. Each pie was wrapped in Valentine-themed cloth and tied with ribbon. Both deliveries were given to the activities director of the facility for her to distribute. Extras were made for the caregivers of these veterans. Unit 163 adopted three Army National Guard families for Christmas. Unit members combined forces with the SAL Squadron 163 and created 20 Christmas stockings that the Sons distributed at the Veterans' Tiny Homes Village in Joplin.

The Department of Missouri is unique by having the privilege and honor of providing volunteer representation at two VAMCs outside of MO; Fayetteville, Arkansas; and Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. This is due in part to having no facility for many years in either southwest or northwest Missouri. There are now two CBOCs (Community Based Outreach Centers). The Department of ALA provides volunteers to five VAMCs and seven Missouri Veterans Homes. Auxiliary members passionately believe in service not self.

Certificates are awarded to the following Units: 1st, Unit 404, D 11/12; 2nd, Unit 253, D 13; 3rd, Unit 163; 4th, Unit 372, D 15; and 5th, Unit 57, D2.

Certificates for winning District reports: 1st, District 10; 2nd, District 15; 3rd, District 1; 4th, District 2; and 5th, District 6.

## Deceased Members

JUNE - JULY

District	Unit	Name	Location
0	1000	June M. Enloe	Saint Louis, MO
0	1000	Anita B. Crawford	Branson, MO
0	1000	Elizabeth M. Franks	West Plains, MO
1	360	Elsie Sagaser	Bucklin, MO
1	376	Sarah J. Allison	Shelbina, MO
1	578	Elizabeth Sharpe	Lewistown, MO
2	25	Elizabeth Ellsberry	Seattle, WA
2	25	Mary M. Lightner	Muncie, IN
3	58	Mary J. West	Smithville, MO
4	49	Mary Wintjen	Griggsville, IL
4	287	Debbie A. Williams	Savannah, MO
5	21	Geraldine F. Owen	Kansas City, MO
5	21	Martha S. Bartlett	Independence, MO
5	21	Stella B. Null	Independence, MO
5	21	Carol J. Harris	Wichita, KS
5	21	Betty A. Leftwich	Raytown, MO
5	596	Kathleen Harris	Lee's Summit, MO
5	609	Mary M. Lemos	Shawnee, KS
6	14	Joan Hagemier	Clinton, MO
6	82	Leah A. Trolinger	Windsor, MO
6	131	Sadie E. Mapes	Warrensburg, MO
6	230	Betty L. Johnson	Stockton, MO
7	223	Renna J. Thaller	Higginsville, MO
7	478	Beverly Bargfrede	Alma, MO
8	5	Betty R. Cochell	Jefferson City, MO
8	5	Jeanette Heidebreder	Jefferson City, MO
8	5	Leanne P. Raitel	Russellville, MO
8	5	Mary J. Armour	Jefferson City, MO
8	5	Marjorie Rupp Dampf	Lee's Summit, MO
8	5	Evelyn N. Martin	Jefferson City, MO
8	624	Barbara A. Spurgeon	Versailles, MO
8	624	Lucy S. Macek	Lee's Summit, MO
9	347	Martha E. Jones	Stanton, MO
9	370	Evalie Moore	Bowling Green, MO
13	133	Marian E. Geile	Perryville, MO
13	150	Norma Oberle	Saint Louis, MO
13	150	Nowetta L. Abt	Sainte Genevieve, MO
13	281	Jean Holland	Piedmont, MO
14	153	LaWanda F. Thone	Poplar Bluff, MO
14	153	Lois Bonkoske	Poplar Bluff, MO
14	158	Betty L. Goza	Jackson, MO
14	369	Geneva Dirnberger	Benton, MO
14	369	Ann Slusher	Benton, MO
14	595	Betty Moore	Matthews, MO
15	322	Vida R. Clark	Webb City, MO
15	372	Patricia A. Garrett	Battlefield, MO
17	434	Pamela K. Hankins	Joplin, MO
17	639	Lourdes M. Davis	Springfield, MO
17	676	Dolores J. Frankland	Springfield, MO

## Calendar of Activities

<b>Oct. 15-17, 2021</b>	Fall Conference, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO
<b>June 19-25, 2022</b>	MO Girls State, Warrensburg, MO
<b>July 12-17, 2022</b>	Department Convention, Hilton St. Louis Airport