

The Missouri Legionette



Official Publication for the American Legion Auxiliary of Missouri

Volume LXXV

THE MISSOURI LEGIONETTE

JULY/AUGUST 2017

NUMBER 4

President's Message



Department President
Carolyn Sanford
Unit 217, District 7

As we begin a new Auxiliary year I want to say thank you to everyone for all you do for our veterans, active duty military and, of course, children. I look forward to meeting many more of you as I travel around the department.

My theme this year is "We are Family." My goal is to strengthen the American Legion Auxiliary, both in membership and involvement. I also would like to see the units, posts and squadrons work more closely together to serve veterans and their families. To be a member of the Legion Riders one must be a member of the Legion, Auxiliary or Sons. I have noticed that sometimes it is the Riders at a Post that are the most active. Maybe this is because all three groups are involved and work together toward a common goal.

My project is the Fisher House which is to be built on the grounds of the Harry S. Truman Medical Center in Columbia. This has been approved by the Veterans Administration and is scheduled to open in 2020. Its motto is "A family's Love is Good Medicine." HST treats patients from a wide area because it offers such procedures as Trans Aortic Valve Replacement. There is not a Fisher House in either Kansas or Arkansas, two neighboring states with hospitals that our Auxiliary supports. There will be a fundraiser at Fall Conference to raise funds for the Fisher House.

Please feel free to contact me with questions or if there is anything I can do to help you. I have asked the District Presidents to please send me their district meeting schedule so that I can visit as many as possible. If you would like me to visit your unit, please let me know. I truly want to get to know more of you.

Carolyn Sanford
C: 660-723-0411
Email: carolyns217@gmail.com

DEPARTMENT 1ST VICE PRESIDENT



Sharon Slagle
Unit 315, District 4

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Department 1st

Vice President for the 2017-2018 Auxiliary year.

It seems like only yesterday that I started this trip and on the way I have met some very nice members. I will strive to serve our Auxiliary with dignity.

My duties as 1st Vice President focus on membership. We are anticipating a productive year with many new members. The 2017-2018 leaders are Northeast Division, Linda Maddox; Northwest Division, Wilma Jobson; Southeast Division, Wanda Kinder; and Southwest Division, Kathy Cox.

If you have any questions please contact myself or Sheridan Mires, Membership Co-chair. We are looking forward to visiting as many Districts as possible this year and getting to know many new members.

2ND VICE PRESIDENT



Judy Donati
Unit 335, District 10

I thank you for giving me the opportunity to continue to serve as one of your Department officers. It's a privilege and an honor. Missouri has so many wonderful and charitable members, and I can't wait to get to know as many of you as possible. I also look forward to working with the hospital and home representatives as we strive to bring comfort and joy to our veterans. I'd like to thank Unit 335 and District 10 for their continuing support during my terms on the Department level. May God bless you and your family.

DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN



Marsha Mooney
Unit 21, District 5

I thank the members of the Department of Missouri for their support. President Cathie had a great year and I know that President Carolyn will be working hard for us.

As your Historian, I will be working hard to keep track of all the wonderful things our Auxiliaries do and everywhere President Carolyn goes. Please help me keep track. Send me news and stories about President Carolyn's visits and travels. Have a great year!



National Executive Committeewoman



Cathie Goth
Unit 14, District 6

Thank you to the membership of the Department of Missouri for the unwavering faith you have shown by allowing me to serve as your 2017-2018 National Executive Committeewoman. I will strive to the best of my abilities to represent the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Missouri as a member of the National Executive Committee. This will truly be a learning experience as I go forward working to bring our National organization's objectives to the Department of Missouri this upcoming year. Always in the "spirit of service, not self."

"WE ARE FAMILY"

Sharon Slagle,
Co-Membership Chairman
Sheridan Mires,
Co-Membership Chairman



The American Legion was established in 1919 to support The American Legion and its many programs. Using the line from our preamble "To participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion" as our guide, together we can support our veterans, including our active military, promote national defense, protect and promote patriotism, and protect all children. The Auxiliary needs members so we can continue to make a difference in the lives of our veterans and their families in our communities. Our success depends on everyone because working membership is the responsibility of every member of our organization. As members we not only have to recruit members but be diligent in making sure we welcome all members to our meetings and activities.

Department membership goals this year will be based on the final membership paid into Department by July 31, 2017. Units reaching the percentages by the given date will be placed in a drawing for a cash award to be given to their Unit to be used for promoting membership, making a difference in lives of our veterans,

remembering and honoring our veterans, and celebrating our successes with our American Legion Family.

ROCK STAR UNITS

- Early Bird Award by August 31, 2017 - All Units who have raked in members and paid membership into Department by October 15, 2017, will be placed in a drawing.

FAMILY REUNION

- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day - All Units reaching 100 percent of their final 2017 membership by December 7, 2017, will be placed in a drawing.

ZIP-A-DEE-DOO-DAH

- The American Legion Birthday - All Districts with no "0" Units by March 15, 2018, will be placed in a drawing.

POPPY PARADE

- Memorial Day - May 28, 2018 (May 30) - All Units reaching 102 percent of their final 2017 membership paid into Department by May 30, 2018, will be placed in a drawing.

ALA SPARKLERS

- Independence Day - July 4, 2018 - All Units reaching 105 percent of their final 2017 membership paid into Department by July 4, 2018, will be placed in a drawing.

If every Auxiliary member in the Department of Missouri works with our American Legion Family we will increase our membership and make our Units, Districts and Department stronger. By emphasizing togetherness and cooperation between all entities we can accomplish our common goal of reaching out and supporting our veterans across Missouri.

Membership Co-chairman Sheridan Mires and I will be available to help you with membership matters. Please contact Sheridan at 660-736-4512 or Carolyn at 660-582-2914 for assistance.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT 2016-2107

Carolyn Sanford,
Co-Membership Chairman
Sheridan Mires,
Co-Membership Chairman

The Auxiliary members across Missouri definitely worked on membership goals this year. The membership parade at Convention was enjoyed by all with lots of laughs and excitement as the chairmen shared the accomplishments of the Units around the state. Awards, letters and certificates were handed out to the Units. Those Units reaching various membership goals since Fall Conference anxiously awaited the drawing for the "Big Bucks." The Division percentages were extremely close this year with only 1.4 percent dividing the four divisions. The Districts were also very close in percentages. District 13 lost their challenge to District 14 by a mere 0.01 percent. Fifteen of our 16 Districts reached over 83 percent of their goal by July 7, 2017. Thank you to every member who paid dues and worked hard recruiting and retaining members.

Four drawings for the "Big Bucks" were held following the membership parade. The number of Units reaching these goals is an indication of the members' dedication to growing and strengthening the American Legion Auxiliary in Missouri.

- 11 Units reached 102 percent of their 2016 membership by 12-7-2016. Pierce City Unit 65 - District 15 won the drawing.

- 30 Units reached 102 percent of their 2016 membership by 3-15-2017. Hamilton Unit 285 - District 3 won the drawing.

- 35 Units reached 105 percent of their 2016 membership by 5-29-2017. La Monte Unit 520 - District 7 won the drawing.

- 43 Units reached 105 percent of their 2016 membership by 7-4-2017. Pierce City Unit 65 - District 15 won the drawing.

Certificates of Achievement for Outstanding effort to Retain Membership were given to those Units retaining 100 percent of their 2016 membership total. This is an extremely important goal for our organization. This goal is crucial if we are going to stop the membership slide in our Units and Department.

A letter of Congratulations was

Continued On Page 2

Secretary's Corner

Nancy Reeves,
Department Secretary

Hello and greetings from Department office. I hope everyone is staying indoors in the cool air. Department Convention is over and was very successful. The membership packets were either picked up or mailed from the office. If you don't receive your unit membership packet in a few days, please contact the office and we'll try to trace it. Thank you!



American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Missouri
"In spirit of service, not self"



Carolyn Sanford
Department President
Homecoming Dinner

SEPTEMBER 23, 2017

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 217
Will be hosting Carolyn Sanford's
Homecoming Dinner at the
Benton County American Legion Post 217
Located at 32739 Highway MM
Warsaw, Missouri 65355

\$25.00 per person

Social Hour 5:00 p.m.

Dinner served at 6:00 p.m.

Shrimp Cocktail Appetizer

Main Course (please choose one)

___ 6 oz. Ribeye Steak

___ Chicken Breast

served with

California Medley Vegetables,

Baked Potato, Garden Salad,

Dinner Roll and Dessert

Vegetarian meal required, please notify

Chef Liz 660-525-5359

Please RSVP by September 15 to

ALA Unit 217

P.O. Box 1762

Warsaw, MO 65355

Area Motels:

River's End Motel • 660-438-2878

31635 Highway 83, Warsaw, MO

Lake Hills Motel • 660-438-5191

31535 Highway 83, Warsaw, MO

Parkfield Inn • 660-438-2474

151 N. Dam Access Rd., Warsaw, MO

Rates start at \$45.00 plus tax.



MOVED?

New address _____

Please forward to:

ALA Department Office, 600 Ellis Blvd.
Jefferson City, MO 65101-2204



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Department Chaplain

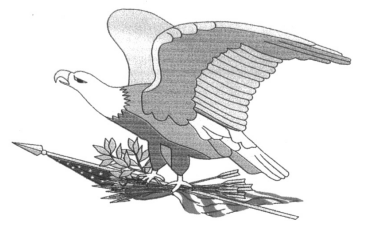


Victoria Ornelas Unit 55, District 1

I feel very blessed. I believe in the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. I want to share my time to forward that mission as Department Chaplain for 2017-2018.

I thank all of you who supported me and for your encouragement.

As our American Legion Family prepares to go out into the world, advocating for our military families, let's open the windows of Heaven and let the Love of God be a joyful sound penetrating our hearts to fulfill the mission and purpose of our goals — For God and Country. Amen.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT 2016-2017 Continued From Page 1

presented by Department President Cathie to the 43 Units who reached 100 percent or better of their Unit's membership goal for the 2016-2017 year. WOW! Way to go ladies. There were 18 more Units that needed only one more member to reach this goal.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the Division and District Membership Chairmen. Thank you to all these ladies for the many emails, phone calls and following up with those Units who needed help, a gentle push or just a kind word of encouragement.

By the time you are reading this second renewal notices should have been received by those who have not paid their dues. If you have not received the second renewal notice please find the membership renewal form in this paper to fill out and submit with dues payment to your local Unit. If you have recently paid your dues, your payment and the second renewal notice may have crossed in the mail. If you think this might be the case or you have any questions please contact your local Unit. As of January 18, 2017 Missouri has 73.50 percent of goal.

I'm asking each of you to encourage a member who has not paid her dues to do so. Units, if you have a member in a nursing home who has not paid her dues, suggest the unit pay her dues. Remember, we are family and family members help each other.

Thank you again for your hard work not only in membership but all you do to carry out President Cathie's theme "Who We Are," "What We Do" and "Why It Matters."

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2017-2018

- PRESIDENT: Carolyn Sanford District 7
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: Sharon Slagle District 4
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: Judy Donati District 10
CHAPLAIN: Victoria Ornelas District 1
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WOMAN: Cathie Goth District 6
APPOINTED OFFICERS 2017-2018
DEPARTMENT SECRETARY: Nancy Reeves District 8

- Cathie Goth (3 years) District 6
Joan Vanfossen District 4
Jackie Sutor District 9
Christina Portell District 11/12
Lori Millam District 9
Mary Harper District 4
Claudia Goodin District 8
Sandy Findeiss (Chair) District 9
Evelyn Cox District 10
Laura Mosby District 3
Gayle Metzinger District 5
Natalie Riley (2 years) District 14
Linda Schaap (3 years) District 5
Jackie Rahm (2 years) District 11/12
Tina Anderson (1 year) District 3
Patty Pink (Bolz) (1 year) District 1
Anita Smith District 2
Evelyn Cox District 10
Robin Boardman (2 years) District 5
Darline Enloe (1 year) District 16
Vickie Wilson District 14
Ellen Arnce District 15
Loretta Holt District 17

- Sheridan Mires District 4
Linda Maddox District 1
Wilma Jobson District 2
Kathy Cox District 6
Sheila Buus District 15
Past Presidents' Parley/Nurses Scholarship Linda Shivers District 16
Poppy District 7
Kris Marsden District 9
Betty Altnether District 10
Vera Gerner-Taylor District 9
Donna Morice District 13
Lindy Capps District 8
Patty Garrett District 15
Christina A. Portell District 11/12
Anita Smith District 2
Evelyn Cox District 10
Robin Boardman (2 years) District 5
Darline Enloe (1 year) District 16
Vickie Wilson District 14
Ellen Arnce District 15
Loretta Holt District 17

- Assistant Representative for Harry S. Truman VAMC District 7
Vickie Heard District 7
Kansas City VAMC District 5
John J. Pershing VAMC District 14
Dwight D. Eisenhower (Kansas) VAMC District 8
Cindy Newton District 8
Barbara Yallaly District 14
Mexico Veterans Home District 1
Victoria Ornelas District 1
Mount Vernon Veterans Home District 15
Janyce Musgrove District 15
Warrensburg Veterans Home District 6
Doris Raber District 6
St. James Veterans Home District 16
Carolyn Sue Isgriggs District 16
Rosemarie W. Hauck District 10
Cameron Veterans Home District 2
Wilma Jobson District 9

APPOINTED OFFICERS 2017-2018

- DEPARTMENT SECRETARY: Nancy Reeves District 8
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Elizabeth Siebenack
PARLIAMENTARIAN: Martha Yancey District 6
SERGEANT AT ARMS: Kathy Cox District 6
COLOR BEARER: Roberta Pointer District 9
PERSONAL PAGE: Regina Bidwell District 7
COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN
Americanism Catherine Auffert District 4
Americanism Essay Lucille Armbruster District 9
Auxiliary Emergency Fund Barbara Sheets District 9
Cavalcade of Memories Marsha Mooney District 5
Conference/Convention Directors Janyce Musgrove District 15

- Education Jackie Sutor District 9
Finance Committee Claudia Goodin District 8
Fundraising Committee Sandy Findeiss (Chair) District 9
Girls State Director MaCae Mickens (3 years) District 14
Girls State Committee Members Natalie Riley (2 years) District 14
Linda Schaap (3 years) District 5
Jackie Rahm (2 years) District 11/12
Tina Anderson (1 year) District 3
Patty Pink (Bolz) (1 year) District 1
Anita Smith District 2
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Robin Boardman (2 years) District 5
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Vickie Wilson District 14
Ellen Arnce District 15
Loretta Holt District 17

- Public Relations Vera Gerner-Taylor District 9
Rules and Regulations Donna Morice District 13
Scrapbook Lindy Capps District 8
Strategic Plan Committee Patty Garrett District 15
Women Veterans Christina A. Portell District 11/12
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee Judy Donati (Chairman) District 10
Audits Committee Robin Boardman (2 years) District 5
Medical Center Representatives Jefferson Barracks VAMC Evelyn Cox District 10

- District 2017-2018
Linda Maddox District 1
Rosie Rhodes District 2
Karen Bumgarner District 3
Sheridan Mires District 4
Bonnie Sweaney District 5
Shirlee Schroder District 6
Margie Koch District 9
Coretta Schroer District 10
Christina Portell District 11/12
Roselee Buatte District 13
Darline Enloe District 16
Evelyn Cox District 10
Robin Boardman (2 years) District 5
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Americanism Essay Lucille Armbruster District 9
Auxiliary Emergency Fund Barbara Sheets District 9
Cavalcade of Memories Marsha Mooney District 5
Conference/Convention Directors Janyce Musgrove District 15
Children & Youth Linda Jelinek District 15
Patty Pink (Bolz) (1 year) District 1
Anita Smith District 2
Evelyn Cox District 10
Robin Boardman (2 years) District 5
Darline Enloe (1 year) District 16
Vickie Wilson District 14
Ellen Arnce District 15
Loretta Holt District 17

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COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Joan Vanfossan, Chairman

It has been reported to me there were five County Government events held this year involving 19 schools, 374 students, 32 Legionnaires, 36 Auxiliary members and 23 teachers. All events had a flag folding ceremony, and one county had a flag disposal ceremony. Thank you to all members who participated in bringing this program to students in your communities.

An award for best report goes to Ruby Steffens, Unit 133, District 13 in Perryville. Some units sponsored an essay contest on the subject "What I Learned at County Government Day." The winning essay was by Abby Bragg, West Nodaway High School, Burlington Junction in District 4.

United States Supreme Court Justice David Souter has said, "Americans should worry about Civic ignorance." Our students need to be prepared to make smart choices about their role in a democratic society. You wouldn't play baseball without knowing the rules of the game. The same could be said about our participation in citizenship.

I'd like to share with you a portion of the County Government Day invitation letter sent by Thomas Hoeh and Ruby Steffens, chairman for County Government from American Legion Post 133 and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 133 in Perryville.

"The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary have always been interested in the promotion of programs to educate our nation's youth in all aspects of good citizenship. The objective of this program is to create a desire on the part of the youth of our land to learn that our freedom cannot be entrusted to others. Each privilege enacts a corresponding obligation and that the ideals and fundamental ideas of government, which have made this country the world's citadel of human liberty, may be understood and treasured as the best defense against things which would destroy our Constitutional Government.

"It is our hope this program will supply knowledge and a broader view of our county government and possibly a hands-on experience to the youth of our community."

Please think about including this program in your unit and district activities.

Missouri Girls State 2017 Report

Macaé Micksen,
Assistant Director

The 76th Session of Missouri Girls State was held June 25 through July 1, 2017, on the campus of the University of Central Missouri. It has been held at UCM since 1998. MGS initially had 801 delegates in attendance. We had 22 "no shows," which was up in number from 13 last year. It is critical that the delegate attends a Briefing. It is shocking when you call a parent and they are completely surprised that Girls State was being held. On two occasions it was a failure of a delegate to communicate with both biological parents as the girl may be living with the parent who did not sign the application. We held numerous Briefings to offer more options to the delegates and provide consistent information. We also held an online Briefing for those who could not attend one of the scheduled dates.

This was our second year for an online registration process. For those of you who were not aware, Missouri Girls State partnered with Missouri Boys State in order to improve our technology needs. The electronic voting was seamless this year.

MGS was honored to hear from Department Commander Bettie Gonzales and Department President Cathie Goth, along with several elected officials, during the week, including U.S. Senators Roy Blunt and Claire McCaskill, Governor Eric Greitens and State Auditor Nicole Galloway. We also heard from the first female Superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol Colonel Sandra Karsten, First Lady Greitens, and former Governor Bob Holden. He taught in our International Politics class and presented the US-Midwest China Association's Youth Cultural Exchange with two of our four Missouri Girls State counselors, Maya Buckner and Mary Beth Rosenaur, who traveled to China last summer.

The western District Court of Appeals held oral arguments at MGS. Our House of Representatives were able to travel to Jefferson City on Wednesday where they were assisted by former and current

Americanism Essay

Lucille Armbruster, Chairman

According to the information I received from eight Districts there were 546 essays written, 19 schools contacted, 13 schools participated and 25 volunteers assisted with the program.

The Americanism Essay Contest was promoted by visiting schools, radio clips, and a brief message published in the local newspaper.

The certificates and checks were mailed to the District or Unit Chairman to be presented to the winners.

Class I	Claire Hellman	District 9	Unit 366
Class II	Corbin Rodenberg	District 2	Unit 25
Class III	Emma McIntyre	District 9	Unit 366
Class IV	Callie Smith	District 4	Unit 287
Class V	Rylee Neill	District 15	Unit 372
Class VI	Logan Moser	District 4	Unit 287

representatives and senators. Judge Cynthia Martin spoke at Inauguration and swore in our newly elected officials on Friday evening.

Our MGS Alumni banquet held on Thursday night was well attended and allowed increased awareness of staffing the Missouri Girls State program and also ALA membership opportunities. MGS Alumni and friends are to meet at the State Fair on August 13. More information at mgsalumni.org

Our presiding Governor and her Superintendent Sam Gunn were outstanding at this session. Former Governor Hattie will be attending the University of Missouri-Columbia in the fall. Super Sam, as she became known throughout the week, will report to West Point. Newly elected Governor Wei Kellmann was elected at the General Election held Thursday night and announced at our Friday morning Assembly. Governor Kellmann and Superintendent Haley Wingender will attend convention.

Our journalism program at MGS is a great addition, delivering daily broadcasts and full print newspapers. We have additional copies of the Girls State Gazette available today. Some of our delegates also created thank-you cards to be distributed at the Veterans homes and/or hospitals. If any reps would like to take those, please get them as well.

We happily had visitors from an American Legion post in the Springfield area. We strongly encourage Units to have members visit our program at some point in the week. Our program has changed dramatically over 76 sessions and we want to showcase it to you. If you can come to our session, please let us know. We will figure out someone to tell you more about events going on when you are available.

Finally, Director Natalie Riley would like to thank the American Legion Auxiliary for the many years of serving the Missouri Girls State Program. If it were not for her grandmother, Betty Cato, the vision of Joanne Snodgrass, the implementation by Rosemarie Hauck and the support of former Girls State Directors JoAnn Cronin, Martha Yancey and Mary Harper, she would not have been prepared to hold this position. Director Riley is stepping down this year to focus on work and family, but has committed to remaining involved with the program. She would also like to personally thank the Girls State Committee, Tina Anderson, Jackie Rahm Dunn, Shanna Jelink, Cinday Newton, Patty Pink and Linda Schaap, for their tremendous dedication to the success of this program and the staff that continues to serve year after year is amazing. She is also excited to see some new faces transition into leadership roles with many who are extremely active with the American Legion Auxiliary.

Constitution & Bylaws

Roberta Pointer, Chairman

Members: Lori Millam, Mary Harper, Michelle Emmerich and the late Vickie Heard.

The two main things found in the documents that we received that were in conflict with National and Department were: 1. Units left out that dues could be paid for life. 2. Putting restrictions on running for office. (Anyone in good standing can run for office.)

Also, it looked like many Units are not incorporated or did not include it in their documents.

The committee recommended this change to the standing rule 31.

It was voted on by the membership and passed.

Fifty (\$50.00) dollars will be allowed to each District President for postage only, for material from the Department to the Units.

CONSTITUTION:

This is the proposed Constitution amendment that was voted on at the Department Convention by the membership

and failed.

Article IV, Department Officers: Section 2

The wording will still read: The retiring Department President shall be the National Executive Committeewoman, and her alternate shall be the incoming Department President.

POLICY AND PROCEDURE This was voted on by the DEC and passed.

District Presidents YEARBOOK

An electronic copy of District yearbooks shall be sent to Department office prior to Fall Conference and shall be made available to each Department Officer, including the Department Secretary. They shall also be made available to the District Presidents and Department Chairmen upon request.

All other changes that were printed in the March/April Legionette will be incorporated in the Department Unit Guide under Constitution & Bylaws and Policies and Procedure. You may include any or all in your documents.

Strategic Planning Committee:

Patty Garrett, Chair;
Members: Laura Mosby,
JoLena Shalla, Judy Donati

We bring greetings on behalf of our Committee and Thank you to President Cathi for our appointments to serve on this committee.

The primary work of the Strategic Planning Committee is to offer education to our members and to work to strengthen our Department through the five established strategic plans set forth three years ago by National and adapted by our own Department. Because declining membership continues to adversely affect our very existence as effective champions for veterans and their families, our mission for this year is simply to increase our reporting and to increase the number of workshops we present throughout the state. Through the networking of the workshops we will strive to increase member participation, develop bonds with all the Legion family and promote the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Presentations at the workshops enable participants to hear, see and vocalize their concerns for our organization, as well as work effectively together to find new ways to promote the mission of the ALA. Our committee encourages each of the Districts to reach out and set dates for our Team to come to you. Sign-ups will be available at the Fall Conference, as well as each of the committee members welcome phone calls, emails or even "snail mail." Secondly, we will strive to improve reporting statewide and through new on-line opportunities work together to promote this effort.

Our presentation includes a variety of issues facing the Units, from what are the various committees of American Legion Auxiliary and how do they work, what is leadership, what are the responsibilities and finally, how do we get the members to participate.

Our goals for Fall Conference are to increase awareness for the importance of "Branding" when working in the communities to further our effectiveness to reach goals and to present information on volunteering how and where to report. Finally we will have a sign-up for the Team to bring our program to you and also a questionnaire. This was done last year (this year's questionnaire will be different), and the information we received was used to develop our program and share with the Department Officers to enhance their outreach to the membership.



AMERICANISM REPORT

Catherine Auffert, Chairman

The Department of Missouri ALA Units have worked hard to show their respective communities "Who We Are ~ What We Do ~ Why It Matters" across the state. Reports were received from nine of the 16 Districts.

There were 15 units that participated in a Flag Education Program. Six units reported presenting a program to elementary students at local schools, other units reported presenting a flag etiquette program, assisting with proper flag disposal, and assisting with a flag folding ceremony. Units also reported they attended 12 events to support the American Flag. One unit had a member attend the Washington, D.C. Conference to speak to legislators about the passage of the Flag Amendment. One unit participated in the "Get Out and Vote" program. Five units participated in the Pocket Flag project with the Junior members folding many flags that were sent to deployed troops. There were 69 flags and 50 letters or certificates of recognition presented. There were 393 entries in the Americanism Essay Contest. Unit meetings began with saying the Pledge of Allegiance and singing the national anthem. POW/MIAs were also honored at meetings and other events. One unit honored veterans and active military with a red, white and blue Christmas tree at the post home. One unit purchased 75 flags to be flown in their community.

Units across the state reported participating in many of The American Legion programs. Two units reported they assisted with the American Legion Baseball with donations and working concession stands. Six units participated in the Oratorical Contest with many auxiliary members helping at various levels of the contest. County Government Day was hosted by 14 units for 331 students from 17 schools. There were 37 Auxiliary members, 27 Legionnaires, 22 teachers and 62 county officials who attended these County Government Day activities. Units also reported assisting the Legionnaires with many patriotic ceremonies. Two units helped with collecting unserviceable flags and helped with flag disposal ceremonies. Ten units helped with Memorial Day activities by singing at the Memorial services, providing refreshments, lunch and transportation to the cemeteries. One unit participated in the "2 Bell Ceremony" at the National Ceremony. Three units participated in Flag Day activities. Four units participated in Independence Day activities in conjunction with their Legion Posts. Nine units assisted the Legionnaires with Veterans Day programs held at schools, Legion Posts, churches, community parades and celebrations. Two units helped with the Vietnam Memorial Wall.

The total estimated hours of volunteer time toward Americanism projects was 630 hours. The total estimated cost was \$3,000. The estimated number of veterans served was 900.

EDUCATION REPORT

Jackie Sutor, Chairman

The Districts and Units in the Department of Missouri were very busy promoting and helping the youth in their local schools. I received reports for District 1, 2, 7, 9, 14, and 15. They reported the Units have participated in various aspects of helping children, or other people with their education. Some methods of participation reported are sponsoring delegates to Girls State; making a presentation of the POW/MIA table at the Veterans Day programs at schools; donating sock caps and gloves for children at Christmas; donating to the local basketball team for expenses; donating to the Special Olympics; hosting a Back to School night; helping with the Oratorical Contest; and have veterans as guests in classrooms.

During National Education Week units showed appreciation to the teachers and staff by sending thank-you cards and giving them apples. School supplies were also donated to a school.

Eighteen scholarships were received for judging. The winner of the Lela Murphy Scholarship is Jamie Best, Unit 133, District 13, Perryville, Mo. The winner of the Spirit of Youth for Juniors Scholarship is Jamie Best, Unit 133, District 13, Perryville. The scholarship winner for Non-Traditional students is Autumn Lindsay, Unit 57, District 2. The winner of the Children of Warriors National Presidents Scholarship is Cody Meyers, Unit 195, District 16, Richland. The winners were sent to the Central Division for judging at the National level.

The total amount of scholarships given by districts and units was \$10,200. A total of other contributions was \$3,525, with 47 volunteers, 386 hours and 80 children served.

The Best District report was won by District 14. Second place was District 9. The Best Unit report was Unit 114, District 14.

History and Cavalcade of Memories

Judy Donati - Dept. Historian

As I was thumbing through my high school yearbook a few days ago, it occurred to me that "popular" students were photographed more often than the less than popular. When working on your Units history keep this in mind and try to capture all the people involved when possible. And give as many details as you can. I received many history reports that said, for example, several members distributed poppies at Wal-Mart. When it could have read:

Jane Doe, Mary Smith and Michele Jones distributed poppies at Wal-Mart on Saturday, May 27, 2017, in honor of National Poppy Day. The weather was fantastic, which made for a good collection day. We were honored to have

Mary Smith's husband and fellow legionnaire John there to help. We all wore our American Legion and Auxiliary attire to promote who we are. We also displayed signs so that contributors knew where their donations were going to.

Another interesting thing that happened to me recently was I was helping a fellow auxiliary member clean out her late husband's work area in the basement and came across two very old Legionettes used to line the bottom of a hat box. I was thrilled by the find! Not only because it was "kind of cool" to see how the paper was done back then but because of the history I was reading about. I can't encourage you enough to submit articles for the Legionette. You never know when someone years later might find your picture/article lining the bottom of a box.

I might be infringing on the Public Relations territory but this also makes for History, I encourage Units big and small to start a Facebook page and invite their friends to like the page. It's a free and easy way to get your information out there. I recently did so for my very small Unit. Just make sure you have someone willing to keep up with the postings. I've visited Post and Auxiliary websites and Facebook pages and no changes have taken place since the last time I viewed them. Include pictures and names of the current president and officers. Post your meeting date, time and location. You never know when someone might be looking to join. And it makes for a great tool or reminder for the Units historian to look back through and compile her book by.

I have already received several history books. I am looking forward to seeing just how many more will be at convention. Awards will be given out.

It has been my great privilege to have served as your department historian this year. Thank you for all your kindness.

Poppy Poster

Kris Marsden, Chairman

I am proud that I received 24 Poppy Posters to be judged. The patriotism that is displayed is amazing.

The winners in the various classes are as follows:

Class I, Grade 3—Tierney Keener, District 15.

Class II, Grade 5—Mia Tobey, Unit 312 District 9.

Class III, Grade 6—Sophia Albrecht, Unit 551 District 2.

Class IV, Grade—Haylen McKnelly, Unit 434 District 17.

Class V, Grade 11—Myka Masters, Unit 65 District 15.

Class VI, Grade 12—Sydney Larson, Unit 65 District 15.

Class VII, Grade 9—Jayden Bargfrede, Unit 551 District 2.

Thank you to everyone who participated. They were all impressive the way the visual image of the poppy was tied with the sacrifice of service made by the veterans.

Poppy Report

Sandy Stragliati,
Poppy Director

POPPY SYMBOLISM

The four petals represent ... DEDICATION, SACRIFICE, RESPONSIBILITY and COMPASSION.

The red petals ... stand for the vast outpouring of blood.

The black ... the mud and desolation of all battlefields.

The green of the stem and foliage ... is symbolic of the forests, meadows and fields where generations of Americans have perished to make this land free.

The stem ... represents the courage and determination of our fallen warriors.

The assembled flower ... is a symbol of resurrection which is sure to follow.

The Department of Missouri sent 113,300 poppies to 103 units and 5,000 to the Department. We had no shortage of poppies this year. We have assembled poppies ready for orders of immediate distribution for Veterans Day. Please order early as supplies are limited. Thank you for your participation in this program.



Poppy Report

Patty Kellett, Chairman

I received six reports from the 16 districts. I am sure others participated in the program, but take time to report any activity. The total poppies ordered was 29,885 and \$34,477.21 was collected from the distribution of them.

Many districts reported the different ways the units used the poppy money to fund items for veterans by donating to the Christmas Gift Shops; giving money and items to be used at the veteran bingos; make care baskets; and provide assistance for utility bills. Districts reported that some units reached out for help from the American Legion, Juniors and Junior ROTC to help with the poppy distribution. A few reported that the monetary collection was smaller than last year.

Districts reported they encouraged units to have a Miss Poppy and/or a Poppy Poster contest at the local schools. Most reported that there was not enough interest in either of these programs.

All who reported did a wonderful job promoting the Poppy Program. Three districts did an outstanding job with the activities and promotion of the program.

Third place, District 13, Roselee Buatte, Chairman

Second place, District 10, Judy Donati, Chairman

First place, District 14, Linda Kern, Chairman

VA & R SUMMARY REPORT – 2017

Sharon Slagle,
VA & R Chairman

The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Missouri, has had a successful year with VA & R. Our Missouri Veterans Hospitals have dedicated representatives. They are Jefferson Barracks – Evelyn Cox, John Cochran – Christina Portell, Harry S. Truman – Carolyn Sanford, Kansas City VA – Helen Hatz, John J. Pershing – Betty Gilmore, Dwight D. Eisenhower – Cindy Newton, Fayetteville VA – Marie Jones, Cameron Veterans Home – Wilma Jobson, Cape Girardeau Veterans Home – Barbara Yallaly, Mt. Vernon Veterans Home – Janyce Musgrove, St. James Veterans Home – Carolyn Sue Isgriggs, St. Louis Veterans Home – Rosemarie Hauck, Warrensburg Veterans Home – Doris Raber, and Mexico Veterans Home – Victoria Ornelas.

I received nine narrative reports this year. Unit winners are third place – Kay Campbell, Unit 153, District 14; second place – Lori Millam, Unit 312, District 9 and first place – Vicki Wilson, Unit 114; District 14. District winners are third place – Betty Gilmore, District 14; second place – Ellen Arnce, District 15; and first place – Roberta Pointer, District 9. Congratulations to all!

Numbers are always important so from the reports I received for VA&R, service to Veterans and Families totals were 54,528 hours, 43,361 volunteers, dollars spent was \$195,222 and miles driven was 19,368. Number of veterans served directly was 42,267.

Serving veterans in our communities were 1,357 volunteers with 12,034 hours. Members provided direct aid to 7,504 veterans and dollars spent was \$31,676.

Homeless veterans consisted of

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Year-End Report

Sharon Slagle, Chairman

The Department of Missouri's American Legion Auxiliary with its dedicated Auxiliary members serving as representatives in 14 facilities, seven Missouri Veterans' Homes along with seven Veterans Administration Medical Centers, including one VAMC in Fayetteville, Arkansas, and another VAMC in Leavenworth, Kansas. Missouri's American Legion Auxiliary Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation homes and hospital representatives, in service to veterans, report the following volunteers and hours for April 2016 through March 2017.

Monthly reports logged in a total of two thousand, seven hundred forty-two (2,742) American Legion Auxiliary regularly scheduled volunteers for five thousand, three hundred eighty (5,380) volunteer hours worked. These reports also included one hundred seventy-seven (177) occasional volunteers working nine hundred thirty-two (932) hours. Total volunteers reported were two thousand, nine hundred nineteen (2,919) logging six thousand, three hundred twelve (6,312) volunteer hours. During the reporting period of April 2016 through March 2017 Missouri Auxiliary Veterans Homes and Veterans Administration Medical Centers reported receiving monetary donation of twenty thousand, seven hundred fifty-four dollars (\$20,754).

The month of December found Missouri's American Legion Auxiliary members busy planning for and volunteering at the annual Christmas Gift Shops held at the 14 VA facilities. The appointed representative and her merry hand of volunteers used a form for residents to list family members they wished to provide a gift for, listing age, relationship and clothing size prior to their Christmas Gift Shop to assist shoppers in acquiring items requested. Facilities reported contacting local merchants for assistance when items requested or the appropriate size was not available for the veterans. At several VA facilities the volunteers made lists of the items the veterans needed or wanted prior to shopping for the gift shop. This made it easier to meet the needs of the veterans and the selection process went more smoothly on the day of the gift shop. The Jefferson Barracks representative in St. Louis stated food and gifts were delivered to all buildings with many hugs, some tears and smiles all around. At the Harry S. Truman Veterans Administration Medical Center in Columbia, Missouri, gifts, along with handmade Christmas cards from the elementary school children of Cole Camp, Missouri, were distributed. Items not distributed at this Christmas Gift Shop were left at the facility to be handed out by volunteers on Christmas Day. All Gift Shops reported opening the day with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Along with the annual Christmas Gift Shops many units visited local residential care facilities distributing treats and Christmas cards.

Missouri's Auxiliary members' service to veterans does not end with the Christmas Gift Shops but is evidenced throughout the state of Missouri in many forms. Cookies and goody bags were presented to veterans in area nursing homes, as well as the Veterans Homes and Veterans Administration Medical Centers. Programs, ceremonies and remembrances are held on Veterans Day, Memorial Day and Pearl Harbor Day. Thousands of American Flags are placed on veterans' grave sites on Memorial Day. Units also reported assisting Legionnaires with Memorial Day services by singing during the Memorial Day service, helping Legionnaires post large American Flags along the cemetery entrances, presenting the military flags during the ceremonies and providing dinner for those participating in the services. Many Auxiliary Units provided funding and assistance with the Wreaths Across American Program, along with the Creative Arts Festival held annually at Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis, Missouri. Care packages are prepared and shipped to deployed servicemen and -women. Welcome Homes and Stand Downs are held statewide. Unit 114 assisted the Post with a fundraiser to raise money for a local Missouri Veterans Cemetery. They held a poker run and barbecue cook-off, raising \$20,000 to help provide the cemetery with amenities and non-budgeted improvements. The same Unit held a benefit dinner and auction to help a veteran with medical expenses and living expenses after he fell from a building. Missouri Auxiliary members have no shortage of talented seamstresses who reported making and contributing lap robes, ditty bags, bibs, wheelchair bags and blanket rolls for homeless veterans.

The Department of Missouri's American Legion Auxiliary volunteers continue to effortlessly and tirelessly answer the call of service to veterans, assisting when and where needed; providing not only monetary and physical support but that much needed personal contact. Missouri Auxiliary Units have certainly shown their communities "Who We Are" ~ "What We Do" and "Why It Matters" across the state.

500 hours by 40 volunteers. \$7,120 was spent on 144 veterans.

Thanks to everyone who sent reports and we are hoping for a lot more next year. Thanks to all who helped us this year and in turn helped the veterans.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

Louise Welch, Chairman

The Department of Missouri Community Service has finished an excellent service for our veterans, military men and women this year. Also, our community has received information from the ALA members and we had several new members to join our Auxiliary family. When we were out in the community we wore our T-shirt with the emblem to identify, **Who We are, What We Do and Why It Matters**. Our Units and Districts have worked very hard for our military men and women, veterans and children.

The Department Chairman had a project "Heat up Missouri" where we donated hats, gloves, coats and blankets for our need children, this went very well.

All Units and Districts donated to our Spring Conference Project in Jefferson City, Mo. We had a total of three thousand (3,000) items and presented a check for three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) to Mid-Mo. Family PX. Our National President Mary Davis, Department President Cathie Goth and members attending the conference took non-perishable items and stocked shelves at the Mid-Mo. Family PX.

The following are other Community Service projects by the Units and Districts:

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service
- March in Veteran Day Parades
- C.E.R.T. Training
- Served Thanksgiving dinners to veterans
- Recycling

- Volunteer to read to Children I Libraries
- Donate food baskets and boxes for Thanksgiving and Christmas
- Volunteer at children homes and hospitals
- Community beautification
- Volunteer for the Red Cross Bloodmobile
- Donate blood
- Volunteer at homeless shelters
- Loan of medical equipments
- Habitat for Humanity
- Made and donated quilts and blankets to a hospital for Autistic children and many more.

–There are seventeen (17) Districts, two hundred twenty-one (221) Units and 11,747 paid members, including 1000. Districts reporting nine (9), Units reporting fourteen (14).

–Best District Report, District 14
–District with the Most Units Reporting, District 8
–Best Unit Report, Unit 372 District 15
–2nd Best Unit Report, Unit 397 District 10

–We donated \$86,899.64 in funds, volunteers 1,257 and hours 40,433. What a great 2016-2017 year.

Junior Activities

Liz Rodabaugh, Chairman

Ladies, I'm the new chairman of the Juniors. I hope several of you will bring those daughters and granddaughters to Fall Conference. I am planning both fun and informational activities and look forward to meeting those young ladies who represent the future of the ALA.



PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Vera Gerner-Taylor, Chairman

Many Districts and Units have websites posting information for the general public to see. This is an excellent way to get information out on what we do and what the ALA is all about. Several units and districts are also on Facebook.

Units were successful in getting articles and pictures published in their local newspapers. Many units submitted their own pictures and articles and they were published. Pictures published are sometimes worth more than a written article as people always notice the pictures first.

Units passed out fliers on their events and distributed this information to their local radio stations for public service announcements.

Unit members are wearing ALA apparel more frequently out in their communities and are encouraging other members to purchase an auxiliary shirt or vest to wear. This makes us more visible.

Year end reports were received from seven out of our 16 districts; however, some of the smaller districts sent me a note that they do not have a Public Relation chairman as their district has some very small units and cannot get members to take chairmanships. Even with this note, I believe those small units are promoting the ALA in their own ways. We need to give these small units encouragement and praise for what they are able to do.

Best Unit Report: Unit 114, Sikeston, District 14, Heather Tidwell, Chairman

Best District Report: District 14, Tammey Cummins, District 14 Chairman

Unit Press Book:
First place – Janice Anderson, Unit 218, Washington, District 9
Second place – Doris Kitchen, Unit 57, District 2
Third place – none

District Press Book:
First place – District 9, Vera Gerner-Taylor
Second place – none
Third place – none

Leadership Report

Ruth Wiemann, Chairman

I received information from several districts and units telling of responsibilities of officers and chairman, using various tools, Roberts Rules of Order, Legionette, etc, how to conduct a meeting and nurturing good will in our organization.

Certificates and awards to Best

Unit Report is a tie between Unit 312 in St. Charles District 9 and Unit 114 in Sikeston, District 14.

Best District report is First place—District 14; Second place—District 15; and Third place—District 2.

A certificate was awarded for successfully completing the Leadership Correspondence Course to Judy Donati, Unit 335 District 10, and Cathie Goth Unit 14 District 6.

Due Date September/October

Information and articles about the American Legion Auxiliary programs are due September 20 for the September/October issue. Remember Chairmen, it is up to you to share information about your program and be creative with your ideas. Focus on your program to make it successful for the year.

Please remember to type double-spaced. Thank you for your efforts.

Virginia Schnurbusch
Editor

Deceased Members

JUNE 2017 – JULY 2017

District	Unit	Name	Location
3	236	Charlotte J. Bills	Excelsior Springs, MO
3	393	Marion Harmer	Gower, MO
6	131	Ruth Tate	Warrensburg, MO
6	131	Mary K. Brabant	Warrensburg, MO
7	305	Helen Harms	Kansas City, MO
9	122	Marian Klausmeier	St. Louis, MO
9	312	Paula Niccoli	St. Charles, MO
11	186	Helen Rivituso	St. Louis, MO
13	133	Irma O. Hacker	Perryville, MO
13	133	Mary E. Hoehn	Perryville, MO
13	150	Ruth Tammé	St. Mary, MO
14	63	Lois J. Unfer	Cape Girardeau, MO
14	158	Marie Hinkebein	Jackson, MO
	1000	Mary R. Hanks	Troy, MO

Calendar of Activities

October 20-22 **Fall Conference;** Capitol Plaza Hotel; Jefferson City, MO (573-635-1234)

August 25-31 **National Convention;** Reno, NV

February 16-18 **Spring Conference;** Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO

District Meetings

- District 1** **August 6;** Hannibal Post #55; 2:00 p.m.
- District 4** **September 16;** Burlington Junction Unit #315
- District 5** **August 16;** Hostess Unit #189; Installation; DAV Bldg, KC
- District 6** **September 10;** Warrensburg Post #131; lunch 12:30 p.m.
- District 10** **August 10;** Post #162
- District 13** **September 10;** Farmington Post #416; 2:00 p.m.
- District 15** **September 10;** Neosho Civic Center; Post #163
- District 16** **September 10;** Richland Post #240; 2:00 p.m.