

# The Missouri Legionette



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Volume LXXVIII

THE MISSOURI LEGIONETTE

MAY/JUNE 2020

NUMBER 3

## President's Message



Department President  
Marsha Mooney  
Unit 21, District 5

This has been quite the year! It started normally as I visited Units and Districts installing their officers.

In August we attended National Convention where we all had a wonderful time. We learned how other Departments and units worked their programs. During September, October and November, I traveled throughout the state visiting Districts and attended the Cotton Carnival in Sikeston. What a wonderful experience enjoying the festivities. I also attended the Eisenhower Pilgrimage in Abilene, Kan. I convinced Secretary Nancy to ride with me and we had a wonderful time. December quickly arrived and I attended District 9's meeting and also attended Gift Shop in Warrensburg, Kansas City, St. James and Mt. Vernon. The members and representatives work very hard organizing the Gift Shops. They do an amazing job and I thank them for their dedication. I had planned to attend Gift Shop in St. Louis and the 10th District meeting, but instead had to "enjoy" a short vacation at St. Luke's Hospital. Nancy and I attended the Lincoln Pilgrimage in Springfield, Ill. in February. I was then able to attend District 17's meeting in Bolivar. The attendance was good and they made me feel welcome. Shortly after this visit we were confined to a lockdown and still are mainly in this mode.

The coronavirus lockdown has made great changes to our daily lives, in our work, social interactions, visits with family and major events we would otherwise attend. The ALA has not escaped being affected. My local unit meets on the first Thursday, so we were able to have our March meeting. That is the last ALA meeting I have attended. Earlier, when this situation began, National canceled the 100th National Convention along with Girls Nation and many other meetings. Some meetings have been held via Zoom or teleconferencing. The Department Convention has also been canceled. Per National recommendation we will not be changing officers this year. National is looking at this being a continuation of the year. We will still be celebrating our 100th anniversary. All officers and committee members are requested to remain in place. If you are un-

able to continue, please notify me at (816) 225-1836 or Secretary Nancy at the office. The Girls State session for this summer was also canceled. The Girls State committee will continue working and planning to have a great session next summer. They do so much hard work to make it happen, and the Units work hard to raise funds to sponsor delegates and select them.

I am hoping that I will soon be able to continue visiting Districts, especially those I was unable to visit last year. When you learn your District meeting dates, please let me know so I can begin scheduling visits. Some Districts meet the same day, and are across the state from each other. I am probably in the best health I have been in for 15 years. I am ready to hit the road when I am told it is safe.

I thank everyone for the hard work and effort you did making the ALA programs work. I wish we would be able to have Department Convention, but you members, are the most important people to think about when having such a meeting. We have much work to take care of — veterans, military and their families. We need everyone to be ready to go, to participate in the programs. Let us hope we will see each other at Fall Conference in October.

## MEMBERSHIP YEAR-END REPORT



### "Keeping Our Promise, Past\*Present\*Future"

Linda Maddox, Co-Chairman  
*Keeping the Promise, Past\*Present\*Future* for 100 years is a remarkable feat! The gung-ho spirit of the veterans returning home from WWI united communities in Missouri. Most of the Posts in the state 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; membership declined. Those who are active are dedicated to the service of our veterans but very few of these members attend meetings. Young families are busy with youth activities, members have aged, and new vibrations are needed to spark the enthusiasm again. 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 sacrifices.

The Department of Missouri has

16 Districts consisting of 173 Units plus 1 E-Unit and the Department 1000 Unit. The 2020 goal for Missouri is 10,409 members. As of April 1, 2020, we have 8,912 paid putting us at 87.86 percent of that goal.

Membership packets were mailed or distributed to units at or after the July 2019 Convention. The membership packet information was discussed at Convention and later at Unit and District meetings.

Districts reported that Units used monthly newsletters, Facebook pages, phone calls, emails, texting, mailing reminder notices and face to face to get information to the members.

As an incentive one District gives a small monetary award to units reaching 100 percent. A small gift representing the District membership theme was given to each unit indicating progress in their membership goal. One Unit gives continuous membership certificates and another Unit holds a spring membership tea to those faithful members. One District sets membership challenges, each unit pays a \$5 membership fee to the District at their first District meeting with the membership chair assigning which unit challenges which unit. Those units reaching or surpassing the challenge will receive their \$5 back and the other Unit donates their \$5 to the District. The District Presidents' Parley gives each Unit reaching the District challenge a monetary reward which is presented after Convention. One Unit sends "Thank You" notes for renewals. Department awards certificates and cash drawings for several obtained goals throughout the year and the winners are recognized at July Convention or 2020 Fall Conference.

It is unknown whether the awards given help retain or increase membership, but all Units/Districts seem to enjoy being recognized this way. Hopefully recognition helps the Units retain membership and motivates them to work harder to recruit new members so they can obtain the goals and awards.

District Presidents seem to always stress membership at each District meeting and in their quarterly/monthly newsletters, bulletins and agendas. At most Unit/District meetings, membership chairmen keep members informed on their membership progress. In years past members of one Unit reported that they did not receive a mailed renewal notice, only receiving an email renewal notice. The district President and Unit President felt very strongly that this was hurting renewals because when they contacted the members, they were told this. This year all their Unit members were mailed a renewal notice and the response was much better. By the end of October 2019, they had received 221 renewals as compared to October 2018 when they received only 176. One Unit extends membership invitations to American Legion members who have a significant other who is eligible. One Unit has their own Unit brochure that they distribute at events held by the ALA and Post. One Unit challenges each member to recruit a new member. This challenges members to make a personal phone call, visit, Facebook message or email to help recruit new members and renew membership dues. Most districts reported wearing branded clothing at Unit or Post fundraiser events, 3K/5K Walk/Runs, Veterans Homes/hospitals, Veterans Day & Memorial Day, and publish these events in their local newspapers and on Facebook pages. It

was reported that most Units have membership applications available all the time. Personal contact seems to be the top recruiting achievement. One Unit reported recruiting several male spouses since the new eligibility change. One District reported having four Units obtain the first membership goal and another District had two Units reaching that the goal with one Unit at 144.44 percent. I am excited to report that the Department of Missouri had 42 Units that obtained our first membership goal of 75 percent by November 10, 2019, and 10 units reached 100 percent by Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 2019! Several Units send additional renewal notices at the end of the year or after National's January 15th notice.

Successes reported by the Districts was one Unit having difficulty with leadership and the ability to hold meetings, met with their District President and later was able to obtain 199 percent by September 25, 2019. That same Unit has reached 144.44 percent for the "100 Year" award by November 6, 2019, the highest obtained percentage in the state! Another District reported their President was able to keep her Unit together despite very few members attending meetings. Another District reported a Unit was able to recruit 17 new senior members and one junior member this year.

One more District reported they were fortunate enough to recruit new members as well as several spouses to obtain over 100 percent of their goal. Still another District reported that their work and association of members with many civic activities such as Patriot Sunday, Veterans Appreciation Night and Quilts of Valor is helpful in raising awareness of the work our ALA accomplishes and in maintaining membership. One District President went above and beyond! She reported making a buddy check on members via telephone, email, cards or messages to all living past District Presidents. She also checked on all Department officers, her District officers and someone from all 14 Units in her District. During one of the buddy checks on a Unit member, she was successful in collecting dues from a 45-year unit member who is in poor health and confined to her home.

Some of the hurdles/difficulties faced were members did not want to personally ask non-renewed members to pay their dues; death of members make it difficult to retain goals; aging membership who have difficulty attending and participating in meetings and activities; cost of Unit membership fees discourages renewals and therefore not being paid as in previous years', changes in social norms do not encourage people to belong to organizations; and inactive and/or working members leave all the volunteering to a few faithful. One District reported a hurdle to her was explaining to Units the fees/dues and changes due to inactivity in the auxiliary. One District President reported that she would like to see the membership report weekly again. It is difficult to recruit new members due to the multiple number of veterans organizations that appear to have much more media presence. The recent "Stay at Home" order because of COVID-19 has been devastating to planned events and our ability to interact with the communities.

I received reports from District 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11/12, 13 and 15. Thank you!

## Membership Appreciation

Victoria Ornelas  
Department 1st Vice  
President

A big *Thank You* to everyone for your efforts to recruit and retain members this year. Department membership has reached 88.07 percent Great job everyone!

Since National Convention has been canceled, that means we get to celebrate our centennial for another whole year. We have more time to celebrate and get our membership growing.

A big *Thank You* to Linda Maddox, Co-Membership Chairman, for doing such a great job keeping us on track with forms from National and Department.

I thank each of you for doing so much to support our wonderful organization and our veterans.

Please thank our veterans and always remember freedom isn't free. The pandemic will soon be over and we will be able to be together again. I hope to see you in October for Fall Conference.

I asked God to bless everyone and give you lots of strength, to give you overflowing love.

I asked Him for sweet patience to bear with irritating souls.

I asked Him for endurance for each and all your goals.

*Be Safe, Stay Healthy!*



## Secretary's Corner

Nancy Reeves,  
Department Secretary

Hello from the Department Office! Debbie and I are back working in the office and doing well. We have managed to avoid the COVID-19 virus.

With the cancellation of Missouri Girls State we have been very busy refunding the fees. All checks have been mailed. This was an extraordinary experience, but we got through it. We are moving forward looking ahead to next year's session.

Many activities were canceled due to the COVID-19 virus. One special event was National President Nicole's visit to Missouri. We are currently working on rescheduling her visit. We will let you know as soon as we have a confirmation.

Department Convention was also canceled. The 2020 Convention would have been our 100th Convention. We will celebrate at the 2021 100th Convention!

With the convention being canceled, that brings us to membership packets. The membership packets will be mailed from the Department Office by the end of July.

Dues verification forms were due to Department by May 1. I needed to have them entered into the data base by May 22. If we did not receive your verification form at the office, then your dues renewal will reflect the 2020 dues rate.

Debbie and I have a new email address. Please make sure you are using the correct one.

Debbie-alamomembership@outlook.com  
Nancy-dptmoala@outlook.com  
Thank You!

## MOVED?

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

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

As we move forward into the 2020-2021 year

Continue to celebrate 100 years of Service

There will be a celebratory Gala at the  
100th Convention in July 2021





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## Chaplain's Corner



**Shanna Jelinek,**  
Department  
Chaplain

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."*

1 Peter 4:10

Are you using your talents? God has gifted each of us with unique talents and skills. Think about what you love to do. Gardening? Painting? Singing? Maybe you love to teach or cook. Although God wants you to enjoy these things, He didn't bless you just so you could keep your talents to yourself. God wants you to bless others with your talents and abilities, and give Him glory in the process. If you love to garden, take someone you haven't seen in a while a bouquet of flowers just to brighten their day. If cooking is your thing, take a meal to a veteran or member who cannot get out. When you share your talents, God can turn your seemingly small acts of service into something much, much bigger.

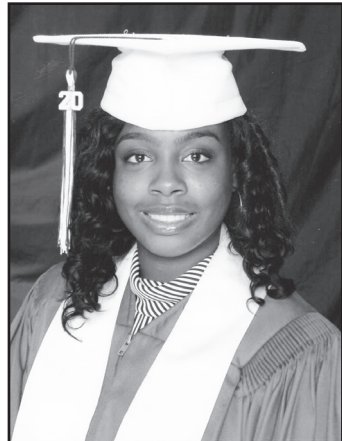
**Dear Lord, we ask that you give us a willing attitude and a heart of service. We thank You for gifting us with talents and skills. Please help us find an opportunity to use those gifts to bless and serve others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.**

I know this year did not go like we planned. We have all learned to adjust and adapt to find a way to still be in service to others, but stay at a safe distance. I would like to thank everyone who submitted prayers for President Marsha's prayer book. If you have not, you now have plenty of time to get those to me. Also, continue to work on and add to your own prayer books. I will look forward to seeing those at convention next July.



# Junior Member Graduates

Since most graduation traditions were canceled due to the pandemic, the idea of recognizing our graduating Junior members blossomed. We are recognizing our future senior members. This spur of the moment decision didn't allow much time to collect pictures. With the help of Department Secretary Nancy she spread the word. These are the few collected due to the deadline for posting. Perhaps this idea can be perused earlier next time to reach more contacts. We are sorry if others were omitted.



**Michaela Criddle,** attended Pattonville High School (St. Louis area); member of Unit 444, District 10.



**Raelin Kay Rose Jelinek,** member of Unit 65, District 15; Pierce City.



**Baylee Jobson,** member of Unit 57, District 2.



**Emma McDermott,** attended East Newton High School; member of Unit 63, District 15; Neosho.



**Graycie Rhodes,** attended Putnam County High School; member of Unit 34, District 2; Unionville.



**Danielle Smith,** attended David H. Hickman High School in Columbia; member of Unit 133, District 13.



**Elizabeth Tracy,** attended Dayton Regional Stem School; member of Unit 416, District 13.



## New Addition

ALA Department of Missouri has been awarded a Mission in Action grant from the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation (ALAF) to be used to support the ALA Department of Missouri's Cargo Trailer project.

The trailer will be used to haul convention supplies around the state to the different cities where Department Conventions will be held. It is currently parked at the Department Office waiting for a journey.

## Auxiliary Emergency Fund

**Patty Garret, Chair**

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund provides temporary financial assistance to eligible members during times of financial crisis or weather-related emergencies and natural disasters; promotes awareness and knowledge of the program.

Special 100th Anniversary Program Facts: The Auxiliary Emergency Fund was established in 1969 by the National Executive Committee, as National President Marcella Davidson, Department of New Mexico, stated this as her special project. It was funded initially through a generous legacy gift from Auxiliary member Helen Colby Small of Burlington, Wis. The AEF is now able to continue to grant assistance through voluntary contributions. The Auxiliary promotes awareness of the fund, disseminates information about the application process, and solicits donations from units, departments, and individual members in order to continue its availability as a resource to help members in certain dire states. A national AEF grant review committee awards AEF grants to applicants based on criteria, membership, and fund availability.

In 1981 the AEF program was expanded to include a fund to help members who needed to support themselves due to unexpected life-changing circumstances such as death or illness of a spouse, divorce, or desertion. Those women found it difficult to obtain employment, and who are without the job skills necessary to obtain adequate employment. Because of this, short-term assistance can now be provided to help our members acquire marketable job skills through schooling or job training when all other sources of financial aid have been exhausted. This was called the Displaced Homemakers Fund. With the continuous generosity of our unit members, the funds allowed a wider use of the benefits to our members and it continues today. The first AEF grant amount was \$150 and today the grant amount is for \$2,400 that our members may be eligible to receive. Since the AEF Program's

existence, our members have received an estimated \$5.8 million, with over \$6 million in donations from generous members.

During this period of unprecedented illness and financial unrest from COVID-19, if you know of a member suffering, consider applying for this fund.

National Chairman Vickie Thrower-Mills, Department of Alabama, 1961 Union Grove Road, Gunterville, AL 35976; (256) 759-4281; vickie.thrower@yahoo.com  
Central Division Chairman Teresa Isensee, Department of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 145, Boyd, WI 54726; (715) 577-5259; tisensee@gmail.com

## VA & R

**Wilma Jobson,**  
Cameron VA Home  
Representative

As representative for Cameron Veterans Home, I distributed cards for Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas to the 200 veteran residents. The annual Christmas Gift Shop was held. Several unit members volunteered by helping veterans select gifts for themselves and their caregivers, and wrap them.

A unit and post member visited five different nursing home facilities to deliver lap robes, adult clothing protectors, wheelchair bags and neck pillows.

Two members helped with the Honor Guard at veterans' burials in Jacksonville. Units also collected coupons and sent care packages. We will continue to do this.

In February Valentine cards and cookies were delivered to the veterans at Cameron VA Home. Due to the virus shutdown the St. Patrick's Day activity was canceled.

We started making face masks and have made 100. We have also made masks for two local nursing homes. We will continue this project until everyone has a mask.



## Poppy Reminder

**Shanna Jelinek, Chair**

National Poppy Day is May 22, 2020. Wear a red poppy to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice and support the veterans in your communities. The red poppy symbolizes the blood shed during WWI. The wartime poem "In Flanders Fields" was written by Lt. Col. John McCrae while serving on the front lines.

### In Flanders Fields

**In Flanders Fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses row on row.  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.**

**We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.**

**Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.**

-Lt. Col. John McCrae

## LEFTOVER POPPY

Hello! I'm a leftover Poppy...

I'm still beautiful, still symbolic of tragic, but courageous sacrifice; still a symbol of steadfast faith and hope. You can use me in many ways. Why then have you hidden me away in some dark closet or in a box in the attic or cellar? Please take me out of those dark places and let me brighten your days.

Have you thought of using me for: corsages, table decorations, place cards, nut cups, memorial services, initiations and installations; as well as for funeral wreaths — so appropriate for the graves of deceased members and veterans.

A little thought and ingenuity, then you won't be saying "Look at all those leftover Poppies — what will we ever do with them?" Instead you will be saying "Thank goodness we ordered plenty of Poppies. They are so beautiful and we have many uses for them."

I'll continue to be a beautiful and a constant reminder of those brave men and women who sacrificed so much for all mankind. Give me a chance. Please use me... I'm a leftover Poppy.

(Author Unknown)





## Fourth District

Sheridan Mires, President

Members of Fourth District worked diligently at "Keeping Our Promise" to our veterans and active military. This year has certainly been different as well as a challenge for members to work our Auxiliary Programs. The Fourth District held three of its regularly scheduled district meetings, with the fourth meeting canceled due to the coronavirus. Units reported many meetings, scheduled events, activities and fundraisers were canceled, which made it almost impossible for them to accomplish their program goals and raise funds for Auxiliary programs.

President Marsha Mooney attended our first district meeting of the year and installed our District officers. Chairmen gave reports at each district meeting and prepared handouts as needed. Reports and handouts presented by the chairmen were forwarded to those units not in attendance at the meeting.

Our second district meeting was held in November and the chairmen had lots of information from Fall Conference to share with members. At our November meeting members were given an opportunity to meet with the members of their unit in attendance to discuss and fill out a questionnaire about their achievements in the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary from August until November. The units handed this information in to the District President, which gave the president lots of information to use in the mid-year report.

Our third district meeting was held in March, Chairmen reminded units of reporting and each Unit President gave an annual report of their Unit activities for the past year. Members get many ideas from these reports on how they might add or adjust an activity to better serve our veterans and communities. At our March meeting Unit Presidents and members were asked to bring their tallied numbers for the Impact End of Year Report. Unit members met to review and tally the numbers and put them on the Impact Report. The Secretary had a scanner and scanned the reports before the end of the meeting. The report was returned to the Unit President to add any information necessary by the end of March. This year the end of the year was the next week so District Four received information from all 14 units. The officers of Fourth District felt this was a good use of our time and offered support to some of our unit presidents who were unsure or confused about how to fill out the forms. It also provided an opportunity for members to ask questions about where an activity should be reported.

Auxiliary members of the District spent countless hours shopping, collecting, and delivering items for the VA Homes and VA Medical Centers Christmas Gift Shops. Many members attended the Gift Shops to help the veterans shop and wrap the many presents. The veterans are always very appreciative of the gifts with some taking the time to thank Auxiliary members for being there.

Units reported donating to Camp Hope, Camp Valor and Missouri Veterans Assistance League;

shipping care packages to deployed troops; Welcome Home events, Wounded Warrior Guide Service; delivering cookie plates to veterans, shut-ins and Auxiliary members at Christmas; various school fundraisers; as well as helping the American Legion with Veterans Day assemblies and Memorial Day Activities. The District collected donations again this year for the 129th Field Artillery National Guard Unit FRG in Maryville to use for their family Christmas Party and a summer family picnic.

County Government Day was held in only one county this year. Sadly this event was canceled in the rest of the counties due to the coronavirus. Many of the educational and school-related activities planned were also canceled.

Fourth District had fun raising money for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Our chairman had some unique and fun activities at each of our meetings; we never knew what to expect next. She presents a question and the amount of donation each person has to give depends on your response to the question. This year we collected \$151.50 at just three meetings.

While the coronavirus was responsible for canceling many events and planned activities, the units continued to reach out to each other. Units Presidents reported making many phone calls to members to check on them and just visit. Sheltering in place gave many of us some extra time to reach out to members of our organization, family and friends. As District President I contacted the Past Department Presidents from District Four, all the Past District Four Presidents, District Officers, and the Department Officers. I also contacted Unit Presidents or someone from each unit to check on members and to just say hello.

As we wind down a historic, unprecedented year without any conventions, I want to wish all of my American Legion Family members well and ask blessings for those in need. Stay safe!

## Sixth District

Shirlee Schroder, President

With COVID-19 restrictions in place, 6th District Units continue to help veterans by giving monetary donations to veterans' projects. From August to December of 2019 our units worked their usual schedule of support right up to the Christmas Gift Shop events.

When the pandemic hit, the community fundraising and veteran involvement had to stop. The units with a cushion in their budget were able to continue supporting veterans and community projects. Some units are beginning to meet and follow the 6-ft. social distance rule. We have all missed the fellowship the units provide.

I really enjoyed visiting the units again this year. It has been the highlight of my term as District President to get to know everyone.

I wish all of you good health and stay safe.



# POPPY POSTER CONTEST

Kris Marsden, Department Poppy Poster Chairperson

I hope this finds each and every one of you healthy, as we wind down on this unconventional year, I would like to say thank you to everyone who still worked and are working the programs.

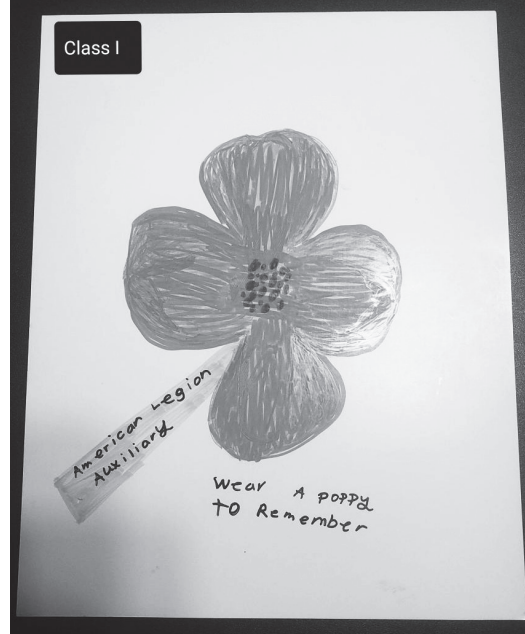
I received 31 posters total, thank you to District 1, 2, 8, 9, 13, and 15. This is not an easy job or taken lightly, again the patriotism and creativity abound in these posters and I am humbled by them.

One winner from each class will receive a check from Department.

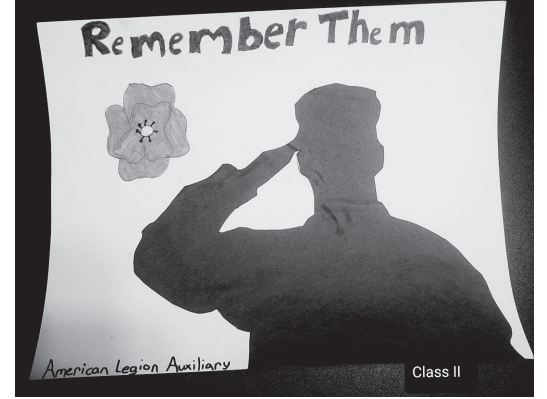
These will be sent to District Presidents for distribution and certificates will be presented in October and posters may also be picked up then.

The winning posters have been forwarded to National for further judging.

The Poppy Poster winners are:



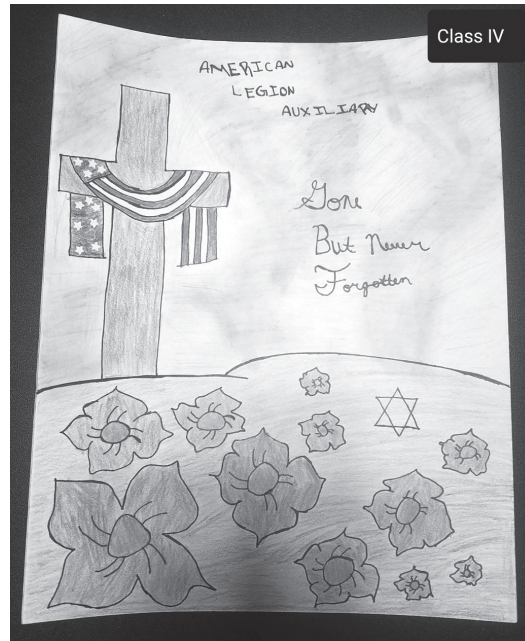
Class I—District 9; Kinley Koch; Grade 2; Elsberry, MO; (Linda Koch, Chair)



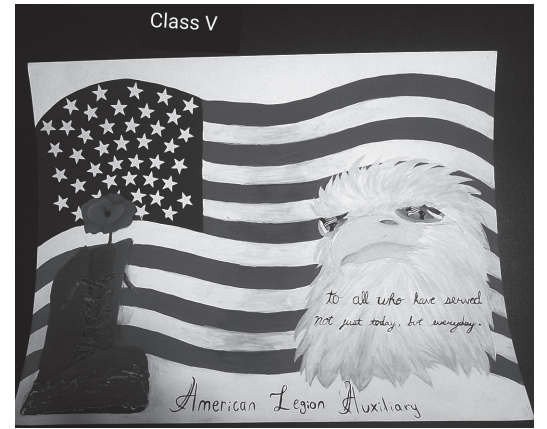
Class II—District 15; Tristen Moore; Grade 4; Neosho; (Vivian Patterson, Chair)



Class III—Sybina Nations; Grade 6; Perryville; (Carol Rozier, Chair)



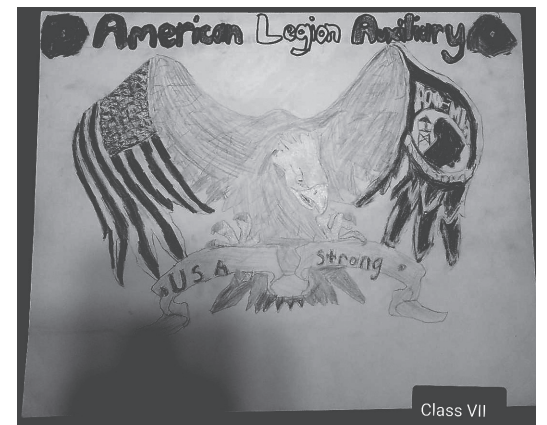
Class IV—District 15; Su Yang; Grade 8; Pierce City; (Vivian Patterson, Chair)



Class V—District 15; Jocelyn Fisher; Grade 10; Pierce City; (Vivian Patterson, Chair)



Class VI—Grace Seneker; Grade 12; Pierce City; (Vivian Patterson, Chair)



Class VII—Quintin Strutton; Grade 11; Russelville; (Paula Harmon, Chair)

## ALA Programs Are Interwoven

The ALA programs are designed to emphasize protecting, caring for children and youth, veterans and their families. The programs are interwoven in support of the ALA mission. You might wonder how this happens. When we are volunteering to promote the mission and purpose of the ALA, we have the opportunity to advocate many programs at the same time.

An example is Junior members are building their leadership skills as they carry out the mission of helping veterans, military and their families. As they help those in their community, they are also supporting many Auxiliary programs.

When Junior members are paired with a Senior member to learn the duties and responsibilities of being a member, this touches all of our programs as they develop their skills. In turn, they can mentor and help promote Children & Youth, Education and Americanism (to name a few) with their members.

Americanism and Community Service are closely interwoven, as the unit is volunteering in the local community or school. Take a few minutes to plan your activities, since they could also become a great tie into a Public Relations event.

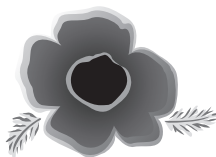
Actually Public Relations could become part of every event. This in turn gives us the opportunity to promote Membership, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation or any other program at the same time.

When it comes to reporting your activities, take a few minutes to review and decide if the events touch more than one of our programs. An example could be if your unit prepares care packages for the homeless in your community. This could touch several programs — Community Service, Public Relations, VA & R, National Security or Americanism. Please make sure to only report under the program that represents where the main activity was focused.

Being creative while interweaving our programs could result in an enhanced interest for our current members; or create an interest for new members to become involved with our programs. This will allow us to support the mission of the ALA and to continue our service to the veterans, military and their families into the next century. (Taken from Melanie Martens, NW Div. C & Y Ch.)

## POPPY REPORT

Betty Altnether, Poppy Director



### Far Away

From all they knew,  
With hearts of pride  
And courage true.  
Vowed to serve  
As Freedom's light  
And through their strength  
Our nation's might  
They gave all  
Our brave defenders,  
Where poppies lie,  
**We will remember.**

(Unknown)

I hope all of you are well and safe. This pandemic has played havoc on everything, including our Poppy program. Because of the pandemic and the shelter-in-place rules the fund is down 46 percent on orders from last year. I know as a nation we

are going to win this war and have a better next year. With that in mind, let's start thinking of programs and fundraisers to increase Poppy distribution for the coming year.

Thank you to all the units that sent their orders early. Stay well, safe and God bless America.

## Who Will Wear A Poppy?

Who will wear a Poppy  
On our Poppy Day?  
"I will" says a mother,  
"For five boys who went away."

Who will wear a Poppy  
To honor those who fell?  
"I will," says the doctor,  
"I've some memories of that hell."

"I will" the factory worker says,  
"I know what Poppies do  
For widows of our veterans  
And their helpless children, too."

"I will," each World War  
Veteran says,  
"There are close ties that bind  
Each one of us to help the rest  
The crippled and the blind."

*Life is a series of experiences, each one of which makes us bigger, even though sometimes it is hard to realize this.*

— Henry Ford

"I will," says the preacher,  
"I don't believe in war;  
But I do believe in healing wounds,  
That's what the Poppy is for."

No single one replies, "I won't,"  
Instead, each with a thrill,  
We hear each good American say  
When asked to wear, "I will."

(Anonymous)





# AROUND THE STATE

Members of Post and Unit 444 recently had a drive-by parade for the veterans and staff at the St. Louis Veterans Home. They wanted to lift their morale during the shelter-in-place order. This was the first time the veterans had been outside and out of their wing since March. This was a welcomed treat. Commander Hallie Williams also joined this special event.



## Due Date for JULY/AUGUST Legionette

Since Department Convention has been canceled, the material for the July/August issue is due JULY 20. This issue will contain your reports that you normally would deliver at convention. It is very important to share your facts and information with the members. The list of chairmen will be printed again for your convenience. Please keep this issue for future reference.

Please remember to type your articles double spaced. It is not necessary to wait until the last day to submit your report. The sooner received, the easier it will be.

THANK YOU!  
Virginia Schnurbusch, Editor



## The Pledge of Allegiance

Red Skelton

I remember one teacher. To me, he was the greatest teacher, a real sage of my time. He had such wisdom. We were reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and he walked over. Mr. Lasswell was his name...

He said: "I've been listening to you boys and girls recite the Pledge of Allegiance all semester, and it seems as though it is becoming monotonous to you. If I may, May I recite it and try to explain to you the meaning of each word:

- I** — me, an individual, a committee of one.
- Pledge** — dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity.
- Allegiance** — my love and my devotion.
- To the Flag** — our standard, Old Glory, a symbol of freedom. Wherever she waves, there is respect because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts freedom is everybody's job.
- Of the United** — that means that we have all come together.
- States** — individual communities that have united into 48 great states. 48 individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose, all divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that's love for country.
- Of America.**

**And to the Republic** — a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people by the people to govern. And government is the people and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

- For which it stands.**
- One nation** — meaning, so blessed by God.
- Indivisible** — incapable of being divided.
- With liberty** — which is freedom and the right of power to live one's own life without threats or fear or some sort of retaliation.
- And justice** — The principle or quality of dealing fairly with others.
- For all** — which means it's as much your country as it is mine."

Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country and two words have been added to the Pledge Allegiance — "under God."  
Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said, "That's a prayer" and that would be eliminated from schools, too!

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## Education Yearly Report

Lori Yount, Chair

American Legion Auxiliary units throughout the Department actively contributed to Education programs this year.

Several units reported supporting American Education Week, with some providing apples for teachers and other school staff in their communities. Another unit took doughnuts to their local school. One unit reported that they had worked with local churches to help fill gift bags for teachers, bus drivers, custodians, nurses and other staff.

Give 10 to Education was supported in different ways as well. Some units purchased items to donate to teachers for their use in the classroom. Other units held school supply drives, and included donations funded by the units as well. Items donated included paper, notebooks, pencils, and crayons. Units contributed over \$250 for school supplies, in addition to "in kind" donations received from members and others in the community.

Several units reported participating in Veterans Community Schools programs, particularly in the Veterans Day time frame. The Junior members in Unit 57 worked with the Unit president to present a Veterans Day Program. This same unit also coordinated with the principal at the local elementary school to bring a veteran to school. A local retired teacher shared information on Veterans Day. One veteran shared his experiences of being in the Army during the Vietnam era, and brought medals to show the students. A second veteran was unable to attend, but sent information, medals, and his military uniform. The local ALA president shared information about his tour of duty in Afghanistan.

Some units supported their local school assemblies and invited local veterans to attend. Other units recognized veterans and gave them thank-you letters written by elementary students.

One unit assisted with presentations of "The Fallen Soldier" and "Chapel of Four Chaplains" at a local school. One Unit President presented the POW/MIA table setting at the annual Veterans Day Program at their local school.

Auxiliary units across the state worked to spread the word about scholarships. The Department Education Chairman presented information about the ALA scholarships at Fall Conference in 2019. The new ALA junior Member Loyalty Scholarship was highlighted in this presentation. Handouts and presentation materials on this scholarship, as well as other available ALA scholarships, and information on Education Program were provided to all District Presidents for distribution to their units.

Several of the units distributed scholarship information directly to their local schools. One unit reported publishing an article in their Post/Unit newsletter promoting all ALA scholarships. The article included links to applications, summary of the eligibility criteria, and the scholarship amount.

Several Units and Districts also awarded their own scholarships. The Department awarded \$500 to each of the MO finalists for Children of Warriors and Spirit of Youth Scholarships. Approximate value of scholarships reported is over \$8,000. Donations to the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund was another \$200.

Several units partnered with their communities and local schools in other ways as well. Several collected Box Tops for Education, Campbell's Soup and Best Choice product labels, old or used printer cartridges, cellphones, used markers, prescription bottle caps, and keys. All of these collections provided benefits to the children and schools in their communities.

Some ALA units made donations to help the students in their communities in other ways. A unit contributed \$600 to pay the lunch bills for needy families at their local school. This same unit donated \$300 to the Backpack Program that sends food home with children in need. Another made a donation to a local school to help after a fire.

Our units also contributed to other organizations that help students, such as Dolly Parton's Children's Books Program (\$500) and Say No to Drugs (\$75). Four volunteers reported donating 35 hours to reading programs.

Unfortunately the COVID-19 pandemic this Spring forced the cancellation of some planned activities. However, one unit found a creative way to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week. They placed a letter to the editor in the local paper to thank the teachers for their service!

## History

Sheridan Mires, Historian

As our local communities began the task of reopening, our normal American Legion Auxiliary activities continue to be disrupted and the future planning of activities uncertain. I believe it would be an understatement to say a few things have changed since my last article. Oh my, what a difference a few weeks have made in our lives and the American Legion Family. When the announcement was made that National Convention was canceled, I think we were stunned. The announcements that Department Convention was also canceled along with the cancellation of ALA Missouri Girls State, were very sobering. Most Units and Districts haven't held meetings or activities in months. Many of our members haven't been able to see their family members for months.

All of these changes in our activities around Missouri are history. As your Department Historian, I have been instructed to include in our Department History the effects of the coronavirus on the department's activities. This is to include how meetings were held, how voting was handled, and what adjustments were made as a result of the virus and any permanent changes that were made. To complete this part of the history I need information from the Units and Districts. I need a short report from each Unit and District that explains how meetings and voting were handled, as well as what temporary and permanent changes occurred because of the virus.

President Nicole Clapp issued a challenge to all Units to submit the names of the eldest member and the longest tenured member to Department. Since this is one of President Nicole's projects, this will be included in our Department History. If your Unit has not submitted this information, please submit it to me as soon as possible. I think it will be interesting to find the eldest member and the longest tenured member in Missouri.

The American Legion Auxiliary 100th year celebration will continue through the 2020-2021 year. Please send me articles covering your Unit celebrations and lots of pictures so everyone can read and see how American Legion Auxiliary members celebrated our 100th year. Email articles and pictures to me: m\_sheridan@hotmail.com OR send to Sheridan Mires, 34649 US Highway 136, Burlington Jct., MO 64428

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**COMING TOGETHER is a beginning;  
KEEPING TOGETHER is progress;  
WORKING TOGETHER is success.**

## Deceased Members

APRIL - MAY

District	Unit	Name	Location
1	578	Carol D. Hinshaw	Morton, IL
2	25	Donna D. Carter	Saint Louis, MO
3	117	Helen L. Pitts	Braymer, MO
4	284	Willa D. Gomel	Fairfax, MO
4	315	Teresa Hickok	Rock Port, MO
4	315	Sharon S. Wynn	Burlington Junction, MO
5	21	Mary A. Wright	Kansas City, MO
5	21	Dolores M. Clark	Overland Park, KS
5	340	Reva M. Hallford	Independence, MO
6	2	Mary A. Wilson	Nevada, MO
6	131	Marjorie H. Niblock	Fayetteville, AR
8	5	Loretta Kemna	St. Elizabeth, MO
8	5	Carol S. Wewerka	Jefferson City, MO
8	5	Angeline Dusheke	Jefferson City, MO
8	52	Joan Burchett	Boonville, MO
9	297	Frances Nuernberger	Columbia, MO
9	312	Doris M. McDermott	Saint Charles, MO
9	366	Betty J. Niewald	New Haven, MO
9	370	Mary L. Thomas	Louisiana, MO
10	338	Nettie Grumke	Bridgeton, MO
11	186	Dolores Sonnenschein	Saint Louis, MO
13	150	Marjorie L. Jokerst	Sainte Genevieve, MO
14	158	Marjorie Hoehne	Jackson, MO
14	362	Barbara J. Henson	Kennett, MO
16	99	Virginia Dent	Salem, MO
16	99	Andrea Y. Cowan	Salem, MO
16	240	Margaret Taylor	Fayetteville, AR

## Calendar of Activities

October 16-18 Fall Conference, Jefferson City, Mo.

## District Meetings

- District 1** August 2; Hannibal Post 55; 2:00 p.m.
- District 3** June 14; Bethany Post #216; 3:00 p.m.
- District 7** June 14; Sedalia Post #642; 2:00 p.m.

