The Missouri Legionette



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President's Message



Department President Marsha Mooney Unit 21, District 5

Thank you for the great honor of serving as President for the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Missouri for the Centennial year of 2019-2020. I would like to thank Unit 21 and District 5 for their help and support throughout my journey. Congratulations to all the Department officers, District officers and Unit officers who have offered their service this year to the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Missouri. Without the service of our Unit members we would not be able to be successful in our endeavors this year. My motto for the year is "Keeping our promise for the past 100

years and into the future."

President Abraham Lincoln in his second inaugural address stated "to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan," this has become the "Promise" which we have worked to support for 100 years. The American Legion Auxiliary also has a Mission statement for our organization. The Mission statement also reflects our "Promise." It is as follows:

In the spirit of Service Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace, and security.

The President's project for this year is the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. This is near and dear to my heart as it not only helps the children of our military who have paid the ultimate price to protect and defend our country, but it is also a project that my husband Dennis and I worked on together.

The American Legion wants to ensure higher education is a possibility

for children whose parents lost their lives while serving our country. Beginning with the 2017 award year, The American Legion expanded the scholarship to include children of VA-rated, post-9/11 veterans with a combined disability rating of 50 percent or higher. The American Legion and the Legion Riders offer support through the Legacy Scholarship

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship is a needs-based schol-arship designed to fulfill a financial gap remaining after all federal and state educational grants/scholar-ships available to an eligible applicant have been utilized.
WHO

Children of U.S. military members who died while on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001. Children of post-9/11 veterans having been assigned a combined disability rating of 50 percent or greater by the Department of Veterans Affairs also qualify.

WHAT

Each needs-based scholarship provides up to \$20,000 in aid for undergraduate or post-graduate college. Recipients may reapply for additional annual awards up to six times. In this Centennial year it is important to remind ourselves what our mission as Auxiliary members is.

I know that this year is going to be very successful because with the wonderful ladies of the Department of Missouri supporting our cause there can be no other outcome.

Department 1st Vice President



Victoria Ornelas Unit 55, District 1

Thank you for your support as we start our new year of 2019-2020. As 1st Vice President I will strive to do my best to serve our American Legion Auxiliary. Every time I attend conferences and conventions I get to meet and learn to know more members all the time. My duty as 1st Vice President is membership. Our membership was great the past several years. Together we will make it better for 2019-2020. Thank you for all your work for this

Department 2nd Vice President



Louise Welch Unit 444, District 10

I am honored to have been elected and proud to serve as 2nd Vice President for the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Missouri for 2019-2020. With God's help I will do my best for the organization. My best wishes to President Marsha and the other officers. I pray for us to have a successful year.

Department Historian



Sheridan Mires Unit 199, District 4

Thank you for electing me as your Historian for 2019-2020. As an organization we are making our mark on history this year. I want to capture as much of that as possible. have an exciting opportunity to look to the past, celebrate the present, and plan the future of our organization. Please send me reports of the travels of President Marsha when she visits your Units and Districts. Thank you again for your support. I hope everyone is looking forward to a busy historical Auxiliary year.

FUNDRAISING **COMMITTEE**

Sandy Findeiss, Chair

I thank everyone who is helping to make our second annual Quarter Auction successful. This is the major fundraiser for our Department. We have many baskets and prizes with a TV this year.

A special thank you to the committee Evelyn Cox and Shirley Willis for their dedication. The Juniors will help along with the Riders, American Legion Auxiliary members. Many Sons, volunteers are needed and we appreciate the American Legion Family help.

Listen to the One In the Mirror

By Bob Bohlken, Ph.D

When life's choices come your way,

Listen to what others have to say, But when all is said and done, Look into a mirror and listen to the reflected one

When temptations are laid at your door, And promises are yours to take Discuss the consequences

and more But listen to the one in the mirror for your own sake.

You may fool the world throughout the years, Others may admire you as you pass. But you'll suffer heartaches and tears, If you don't listen to the

one in the glass.

It is you alone who makes the choices. No matter what other others may say or do. You may listen to other voices

mirror is true. (Submitted by NEC Sharon Slagle)

But the voice of the one in the

MEMBERSHIP



"KEEPING OUR PROMISE, Past*Present*Future"

> Victoria Ornelas, Membership Co-Chair Linda Maddox, Membership Co-Chair

Welcome to the 2019-2020 Membership! President Marsha's theme is "Keeping our Promise, Past*Present*Future." Her membership pin is recognizing the Auxiliary's last 100 years. We are now aiming our spaceship into the future. As we look toward our 100th birthday, we need to celebrate our membership, as well as the membership of others. Our primary goal is to grow in membership through working the mission. Let's celebrate our members and units.

The leaders are: Northeast Division, Muriel Christman; Northwest Division, Wilma Jobson; Southeast Division, Wanda Kinder; and Southwest Division, Linda Jelinek.

If you have any questions please contact Co-Chair Linda Maddox or

Constitution & Bylaws Report

Lori Millam, Co-Chair Roberta Pointer, Co-Chair

The ALA Department of Missouri Constitution & Bylaws committee continues to stress the importance of reviewing your document each year, whether it is unit or district.

The units have been busy with

this program. Seventeen units district have reviewed their documents. Nine of these have made necessary changes. Standing Rule changes were made to location change or dues increase. One district had to lower the quorum number to be able to conduct business.

Committees were formed in Units and Districts to accept the task of reviewing the documents, making necessary changes and taking them to the members for approval. After making the necessary changes the

revised documents were sent to Department office to be filed.

Some units reported reviewing their documents at the regular unit meetings. One unit reported reviewing the Preamble to the Constitution of the ALA at the Constitution of the ALA at the meetings. One unit reported three members volunteered 50 hours to review the entire Constitution & Bylaws and Standing rules. Another unit spent \$36 and volunteered nine hours toward this program. Copies of the unit document are available to new members and other members who request a copy. Several units send copies to all members at the

ATTENTION PLEASE!

Help! Contribute! Donate!

The Missouri Girls State Trust Board is sponsoring a continuous Parade of Checks as a fundraiser. This donation can be made anytime during the year as your budget allows. The fund helps with the longevity of the program. Thank you in advance • for your generosity. Your gift may be sent to:

> Patty Garrett, Treasurer MGS Trust Board 3909 W Sexton St. Battlefield, MO 65619-8103 •

Please mark your check for • • MGS Trust Fund.

first of the year.

District chairmen gave reports about this program to their members that included "What is this program, and why do we have One District reported reviewing the document, each change was voted on, and copies of the newly revised document were given to each District officer. A copy was also provided to each unit in the district and a copy was filed at Department office. Everyone was busy this year promoting, reviewing and revising the Constitution & Bylaws.

Regarding Standing rules has come to our attention that the way we have always learned or been given information on the Standing rules is not exactly correct.

Our understanding as told to us for years is that Standing rules require only a majority vote to adopt or change. This has been used to explain why we should put information in the Standing rules.

According to Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, in brief, page 97.

87:
"Standing rules require only a majority vote to adopt. To amend them takes either a majority vote with previous notice, or without notice, a two-thirds vote or a vote of a majority of the entire membership of the voting body." The entire membership of the voting body is explained on page 67. This information is also found in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 11th Edition on pages 18 and 306.

Awards 1st Place- Unit Report—Unit 312,

Lori Millam, Chair
2nd Place- Unit Report—Unit
114, Vickie Wilson, Chair

3rd Place- Unit Report—Unit 360, Linda Maddox, Chair
1st place- District Report—

District 14, Vickie Wilson, Chair 2nd Place- District Report— District 9, Lori Millam, Chair 3rd Place- District Report— District 1, Juanita Turnbough,



Secretary's Corner Nancy Reeves,

Hello from the Department Office! I hope everyone is staying cool. Debbie and I thank the members who helped with convention registration. Your help was greatly appreciated. It was great to see everyone.

A few districts didn't pick up the membership packets. Those were mailed. If your unit did not receive your membership packet please check with your district president first and check if she has it before contacting the of-

There are new forms in your membership packets. Please make sure you are using the most updated forms. We still get old forms with incorrect dues amounts. The Poppy form has been updated to include shipping cost. If you use an old form and don't include shipping cost, this will delay your order. Shipping cost can come from the Poppy

Reminder: We cannot enter members for 2020 until September 1. If you send them to the office, we will hold until the first. You can renew your membership online at www.alaforveteran. com. Email renewals have been sent. If we have an email on file in the data base, you should have received your renewal already. Paper renewals will be mailed on

Please don't hesitate to contact the Department office with questions or concerns. God Bless!

MOVED?

HOMECOMING

Department President, Marsha Mooney

Friday, September 20, 2019

Post #21, Independence, MO

For Information Call:

Marsha Mooney 816-225-1836 or Dorothy Ballew 816-373-0221

New address

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



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Mrs. Virginia Schnurbusch, Editor 1615 Red Wing Ct. Perryville, MO 63775 Phone: 573-547-6150 ${\bf Email:vlsjts@sbcglobal.net}$

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notices directly to Department Headquarters, 600 Ellis Blvd., Jefferson City, MO

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Department President —

Mooney, 16004 E. 31st Terrace South, Independence, MO 64055 H: 816-373-2275 C: 816-225-1836, Email: mlynnm55@aol.

Department Secretary — Nancy Reeves, 600 Ellis Blvd., Jefferson City, $MO\ 65101\text{-}1615, (573)\ 636\text{-}9133.$

Fax: (573) 635-3467. Email: dptmoala@embarqmail.com.

Department Chaplain



Shanna Jelinek Unit 65, District 15

I am proud and honored to serve as Chaplain for the Department of Missouri for 2019-2020. I am truly humbled and blessed to have been elected. I pray that President Marsha, the other officers and committees have a very successful

Chaplain's Corner



Shanna Jelinek, Department Chaplain

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength, They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not grow faint.

Isaiah 40:31

Let us be renewed in our purpose to carry out the programs of our organization. We have kept our promise for 100 years and will continue to in the future

PRAYER: Dear Lord, I ask that You will give wisdom and strength to our newly elected officers of the American Legion Auxiliary. Bless and encourage them in Your own special way. Guide them as they lead us in our paths of service. May they assume their offices determined to fulfill their obligations to our organization. I pray that you are also with every unit and member of our organization. Bless them with renewed enthusiasm and energy to work the programs to serve our veterans and communities in the coming year. All

Monett, MO 65708

3654 Candlewyck Green Ct. Florissant, MO 63034 Ph: 314-355-4675 Sandy Stragliati Sandy Stragnau 4109 Faredale Lane St.Charles, MO 63304 H: 314-631-2475 C: 314-740-5197 this I ask in your name. Amen DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2019-2020 Policies & Procedures PRESIDENT: Marsha Mooney 16004 E. 31st Terrace South District 5 Co-Chairmen Lori Millam (2 years) Independence, MO 64055-2720 H: 816-373-2275 96 Deves Road Email: mlynnm55@aol.com FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: Victoria Ornelas 86 Gemini Drive District 1 Roberta Pointer (3 years) 24007 Pike 248 Louisiana, MO 63353-4112 Hannibal, MO 63401
Email: ornelas573@aol.com
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT:
Louise S. Welch
Dis H: 573-754-6522 Members
Michelle Burnett District 10 405 Versailles Drive Florissant, MO 63031-2147 H: 314-839-4920 Emmerich (1 year) 23214 Prairie Valley Avenue Salisbury, MO 65281 C: 660-676-2188 Email: louisewelch70@yahoo.com HISTORIAN: **Sheridan Mires** District 4 34649 US Hwy. 136 Burlington Junction, MO 64428 Connie Pack (3 years) 4015 Cambridge Circle Jefferson City, MO 65109 H: 660-736-4512 C: 660-744-4457 Ph: 573-690-2141 Email: packwm@gmail.com

Cathie Goth (1 year) Email: m_Sheridan@hotmail.com CHAPLAIN: Shanna Jelinek 17977 Lawrence 1080 District 15 1800 Strawberry Lane

C: 417-235-9272 Email: sjelinek33@gmail.com NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEWOMAN: Sharon Slagle 1260 W. Crestview District 4 Maryville, MO 64468-2730 H: 660-582-2914 C: 660-254-0341 Email: sharonslagle101042@gmail.com ALTERNATE NEC: Marsha Mooney 16004 E. 31st Terrace South Independence, MO 64055-2720 District 5 H: 816-373-2275 Email: miynnm55@aol.com

APPOINTED OFFICERS 2019 - 2020DEPARTMENT SECRETARY:
District 8 Nancy Reeves 600 Ellis Blvd. Jefferson City, MO 65101-2204 Office: 573-636-9133 FAX: 573-635-3467 Email: dptmoala@embarqmail.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT: Debra Anthony District 8 600 Ellis Blvd. Jefferson City, MO 65101 Office: 573-636-9133 Fax: 573-635-3467 Email: membership@embargmail.com PARLIAMENTARIAN: Mary Harper 202 McCandles Street Barnard, MO 64423-8216 District 4 H: 660-652-3291 C: 660-562-8771 Email: marehar@grm.net SERGEANT at ARMS: Bonnie Sweeney

4485 SW Bowspirit Drive
Lee's Summit, MO 64082
H: 816-528-7387
Email: besweeney@sbcglobal.net

COLOR BEAFFRES: District 5 Catherine Auffert 35911 State Highway NN Parnell, MO 644575 H: 660-986-2814 District 4

Email: cjauffert@hotmail.com Carolyn Bresnick District 4 6715 N. Hickory Street Kansas City, MO 64118 Ph: 816-803-9731 Email: cbresnick@kc.rr.com
PERSONAL PAGE:

District 5

District 5

Helen Hatz Helen Hatz 8102 Pennsylvania Lane Kansas City, MO 64114 H: 816-361-4374 C: 816-806-5358

Arlene Choat 3829 Laurel Kansas City, MO 64133 H: 816-361-4374

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN Americanism
Catherine Auffert
35911 State Highway NN
Parnell, MO 64475
H: 660-986-2814
Email: cjauffert@hotmail.com
Americanism Essay
Christing Schorers District 4 Christine Schepers
1723 Green Berry Rd.
Jefferson City, MO 65101-2323
Ph: 573-821-7807 District 8 Email: christieschepers514@gmail.com

Auxiliary Emergency Fund

Sharon Slagle

1260 W. Crestview

Maryville, MO 64468-2730

H: 660-582-2914

C: 660-254-0241 District 4 C: 660-254-0341 Email: sharonslagle101042@gmail.com
Children & Youth
Linda Jelinek
District 18 District 15 17605 Lawrence 1070 Monett, MO 65708-8192 H: 417-236-4800 Email: jelinek@mo-net.com Email: omaljelinek@gmail.com Community Service Margie Koch 623 Highway CC Elsberry, MO 63343 H: 573-898-5508 C: 636-485-3162 District 9

Email: marjoriekoch81451@gmail.com
Conference Directors
Dorothy Goodin
District District 8 Box 104687

Box 104687
Jefferson City, MO 65110
H: 573-436-3105
C: 573-353-7651
Email: dorothygoodin@gmail.com
Christine Schepers
Dis District 8 1723 Green Berry Rd. Jefferson City, MO 65101-2323

H: 573-821-7807 Email: christineschepers514@gmail.com Convention Directors District 10 Rosemarie W. Hauck

Email: hauckrw@sbcglobal.net District 10

Email: sansdrast@sbcglobal.net Constitution and By-Laws/

District 9 Montgomery City, MO 63361-5301 Ph. 573-836-0654

Email: martylorimillam@gmail.com District 9

Email: bert.pointer@yahoo.com

District 1 Email:micheleburn@yahoo.com District 8

District 6 Clinton, MO 64735 H: 660-885-5395

C: 660-351-1816 Email: cgoth1@charter.net County Government Joan Vanfossan 32757 State Hwy. M Barnard, MO 64423 District 4 H: 660-652-3787 C: 816-914-1448 C: 816-914-1448
Email: sparrow@grm.net
Courtesy Resolutions
Jackie Sutor
1009 Yankee Court
Warrenton, MO 63383-7094
H: 314-440-0915 District 9 Email: Isdopey@gmail.com

Distinguished Guest Committee

Rosemarie W. Hauck

District District 10 August 1985 August Mary Harper 202 McCandles Street Bernard MO 64423-8296 District 4 H: 660-652-3291 C: 660-562-8771 Email: marehar@grm.net
Barb Sheets District 9 103 Grove Street Wentzville, MO 63385-1716 H: 636-698-4114

Education Lori Yount District 11/12 1011 Julianna Dr. Ballwin, MO 63011 Ph: 314-839-4920 Email: lyount3@gmail.com Finance Committee Claudia Goodin, Chair (2 years) 2411 Yorktown Drive Jefferson City, MO 65109-2083 H: 573-636-4013 C: 573-680-6721 District 8 Email: claudiagoodin48@gmail.com Linda Maddox (1 year) Distr

District 1 317 N. Main Street New Cambria, MO 63558-1001 H: 660-226-5586 C: 660-384-1269 Email: blmaddox@cvalley.net District 6

Email: bimaddox@cvalley.net
Martha Yancey (3 years)
1200 Bass Wood St., Apt.H3
Warrensburg, MO 64093
Ph: 660-909-2786
Email: mjyancey@hotmail.com
Fundraising Committee
Sandy Findeiss (Chair)
102 McGlox Villege Dr. District 9

Sandy Findeiss (Chair)
102 McClay Village Dr.
St. Peters, MO
Ph: 636-279-4202
Email: sandy.findeiss@yahoo.com
Evelyn Cox
9434 Ridge Avenue
Overland, MO 63114
H: 314-429-7664
C: 314-805-0014 District 10 C: 314-805-0014 evecox@icloud.com

Shirley Willis District 10 8 Shireford Ln. St. Louis, MO 63135 H: 314-524-0034 C: 314-791-1119 Email: willis.shirley@sbcglobal.net

Girls State Director MaCae Mickens (2 years) District 6 Waterins (2 years)
506 Fountain Hill Drive
Warrensburg, MO 64093
Ph: 660-909-1034
Email: mmickens@warrensburg6.org

Girls State Committee Members
Natalie Riley (3 years)

Distr District 14 P.O. Box 633 Dexter, MO 63841 H: 573-820-2467 Email: natalie@holdenlawoffices.com Linda Schaap (2 years) 11108 E. 83rd Terrace

Raytown, MO 64138 H: 816-358-4541 C: 816-863-0503 Email: lkschaap@hotmail.com Whitney Nolan (3 years) *District 11/12*

2528 Simes Ave. St. Louis, MO 63114 H: 573-528-2400 Email: whitneyatc@gmail.com Tina Anderson (2 years)

802 N. Galatin Street

Hamilton, MO 64644

H: 816-583-2777

C: 816-868-7998

Email: ctanderson5@gmail.com District 3

Shanna Jelinek (1 year) 17977 Lawrence 1080 District 15 Monett, MO 65708 Ph: 417-235-9272 Email: sjelinek33@gmail.com Patty Pink (2 years) District 1

515 S. Franklin Street Kirksville, MO 63501 Ph: 660-341-4233 Email: pattypink@gmail.com Missouri Girls State Trust Board Linda Shivers, Chairman District 16 Virginia Schnurbusch District 13 District 10

Rosemarie W. Hauck Roselee Buatte District 13 Patty Garrett Gold Star Program District 15 Jackie Sutor 1009 Yankee Court District 9 Warrenton, MO 63383-7094 Ph: 314-440-0915

Email: lsdopey@gmail.com *Junior Activities* Jessica Childers District 14 223 Broadway Sikeston, MO 63801 Ph: 573-620-7439

Leadership Patty Garrett 3909 W. Sexton St. District 15 Battlefield, MO 65619 Ph: 417-343-8712 Email: garrmrt@hotmail.com Legionette Editor

Email: machilders02@gmail.com

Virginia Schnurbusch 1615 Red Wing Court Perryville, MO 63775 H: 573-547-6150 District 13 Email: vlsjts@sbcglobal.net

Legislative Claudia Goodin District 8 4209 Laura Ave. Jefferson City, MO 65109 H: 573-636-4013 C: 573-680-6721 Email:claudiagoodin48@gmail.com *Membership Co-Chairmen*

Victoria Ornelas 86 Gemini Drive Hannibal, MO 63401 Ph: 573-406-1223 Email: ornelas573@aol.com District 1

Linda Maddox $District\ 1$ 317 N. Main St. New Cambria, MO 63558 H: 660-226-5586 C: 660-384-1269 Email: blmaddox@cvalley.net *Northeast Division* Muriel Christman 1384 Westbrooke Meadows District 10 Ballwin, MO 53021 Ph: 636-225-4483 Email: murielam@swbell.net *Northwest Division* Wilma Jobson 30649 Abbey Avenue Bucklin, MO 64631 H: 660-695-3858 District 2 C: 660-384-4265 Email: wljobson@cvalley.net Southeast Division Wanda Kinder District 13 120 East Beffa Street Festus, MO 63028 Ph: 636-232-1179 Email: wandakinder1954@gmail.com Southwest Division Linda Jelinek District 15 17605 Lawrence 1070 Monett, MO 65708 Ph: 417-236-4800 Email: jelinek@mo-net.com Email: omajelinek@gmail.com MusicMusic Sheila Buus 412 Northpark Loop Greenfield, MO 65661 H: 417-637-0054 District 15 H: 417-637-0054 Email: sheilabuus@gmail.com National Security Sharon Slagle 1260 Westview Dr. Maryville, MO 64468-2730 H: 660-582-2914 C: 660-254-0341 District 4 C: 660-254-0341
Email: sharonslagle101042@gmail.com
Past Presidents' Parley/
Nurses Scholarship
Laura Mosby
Gladstone, MO 64118
H: 816-453-0897
C: 816-721-3652 District 3 C: 816-721-3653 Email: llmosby@saint-lukes.org Email: llmosby@att.net Poppy **Shanna Jelinek** 17977 Lawrence 1080 Monett, MO 65708 Ph: 417-235-9272 District 15 District 9 C: 636-219-5282 Email: ndtmann@yahoo.com District 10 12235 Winrock Dr. Creve Coeur, MO 63141 H: 314-453-0170 C: 314-882-8385 District 8

Pn: 417-235-9272 Email: sjelinek33@gmail.com Poppy Poster Kris Marsden 4109 Faredale Lane St. Charles, MO 63304 H: 636-447-2394 C: 636-210-5382

Poppy Director Betty Altnether

Email: BettyAltnether@att.net *Public Relations* **Lindy Capp** 2718 Grandview Dr Jefferson City, MO 65109 Ph: 209-747-7143

Email: l.capps@hotmail.com Rules and Regulations Carolyn Sanford P.O. Box 893 Warsaw, MO 65355 District 7 C: 660-723-0411

Email: carolyns217@gmail.com Scrapbook
Laura Mosby
6016 N. Broadway
Gladstone, MO 64118 District 3 H: 816-453-0897 C: 816-721-3653

Email: llmosby@saint-lukes.org Email: llmosby@att.net Women Veterans (no name)
Veterans Affairs &
Rehabilitation Committee Louise Welch (1 year) 405 Versailles Drive District 10 Florissant, MO 63031-2247 H: 314-839-4920 H: 314-839-4920 Email: louisewelch70@yahoo.com Cathie Goth (2 years) Di 1800 Strawberry Lane Clinton, MO 64735 District 6

H: 660-885-5395 C: 660-351-1816 C: 660-351-1816 Email: cgoth1@charter.net **Evelyn Cox** (1 year) 9434 Ridge Avenue Overland, MO 63114 District 10 H: 314-429-7664 C: 314-805-0014 Email: eve4acure@icloud.com

Patty Kellet (2 years) District 13 6121 Cedar Springs Rd. Cedar Hill, MO 63016 Ph: 646-274-4932 Email: cdk9320@aol.com

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Audit Committee Linda Schaap (3 years) District 5 11108 E. 83rd Terrace Rayton, MO 64138-3642

Ph: 816-358-4541 Email: lkschaap@hotmail.com
Darline Enloe (1 year)
2753 N. Service Road W
St. Clair, MO 63077 District 16 C: 636-375-6988 **Ellen Arnce** (2 years) District 15

Neosho, MO 64850 Ph: 417-451-4623 Email: earnce@vahoo.com Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Medical Center Representatives Jefferson Barracks VAMC

2712 Laramie Lane

District 10 Evelyn Cox (2 years) 9434 Ridge Avenue Overland, MO 63114 H: 314-429-7664 C: 314-805-0014

Email: eve4acure@icloud.com John Cochran VAMC District 10 Evelyn Cox (2 years) 9434 Ridge Avenue Overland, MO 63114 H: 314-429-7664 C: 314-805-0014

Email: eve4acure@icloud.com Harry S. Truman VAMC District 7 Carolyn Sanford P.O. Box 893 Warsaw, MO 65355

C: 660-723-0411 Email: carolyns217@gmail.com Kansas City VAMC Helen Hatz District 5 Helen Hatz 8102 Pennsylvania Lane Kansas City, MO 64114 H: 816-361-4374 C: 816-806-5358 Email: hghatz@kc.rr.com John J Pershing VAMC Betty Gilmore 418 Hazel Street, B District 14 Poplar Bluff, MO 63901 H: 573-785-3405 Dwight D Eisenhower (Kansas) VAMC Cindy Newton District 8 914 Shamrock Avenue Boonville, MO 65233 H: 660-882-2863 C: 660-888-1567 Email: cindy.newton@sbcglobal.net
Fayetteville (Arkansas) VAMC
Ellen Arnce
Distri District 15 2712 Laramie Lane Neosho, MO 64850 Ph: 417-451-4623 Email: earnce@yahoo.com Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Missouri Veterans Homes Representatives
Cape Girardeau Veterans Home
Barbara Yallaly
District 1015 Haddock Street District 14 Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 H: 573-334-4606 Mexico Veterans Home Victoria Ornelas District 1 86 Gemini Drive Hannibal, MO 63401 H: 573-406-1223 Email: ornelas573@aol.com Mount Vernon Veterans Home Janyce Musgrove Di. 400 Valley Drive Purdy, MO 65734 District 15 Ph: 417-489-2884
Email: janycekcm@yahoo.com
Warrensburg Veterans Home
Belva Fransworth District 6 209 Seliman Street
Warrensburg, MO 64093
Ph: 660-422-1147
Email: farnsworthbelva@gmail.com St. James Veterans Home Carolyn Sue Isgriggs District 16 202 Mound Road Bourbon, MO 65441 Ph: 573-205-0119

St. Louis Veterans Home District 10

Rosemarie W. Hauck D 3654 Candlewyck Green Court Florissant, MO 63034 Ph: 314-355-4675

Email: hauckrw@sbcglobal.net
Cameron Veterans Home Wilma Jobson 30649 Abbey Avenue Bucklin, MO 64631 H: 660-695-3858 District 2

C: 660-384-4265 Email: wljobson@cvalley.net DISTRICT PRESIDENTS 2019-2020 Linda Maddox 317 North Main Street New Cambria, MO 63558 660-226-5586 District 1

Email: blmaddox@cvalley.net Wilma Jobson District 2 30649 Abbey Ave Bucklin, MO 64631 H: 660-695-3858 C: 660-384-4265 Email: wljobson@cvalley.net Karen Bumgarner District 3 5212 Cody Shawnee, KS 66203 913-631-1487

Email:kbumgarner522@aol.com Sheridan Mires Di 34649 US Hwy. 136 Burlington Junction, MO 64428 H: 660-736-4512 District 4 C: 660-744-4457 Email: m_sheridan@hotmail.com Bernadette Murry 5317 NE 67th Ct. District 5

Kansas City, MO 64119 H: 816-216-6084 C: 334-714-2677 Shirlee Shroder District 6 Shirtee Shroder P.O. Box 519 Stockton, MO 65785 H: 417-276-9996 Email: cwses@windstream.net

Carolyn Sanford P.O. Box 893 District 7 Warsaw, MO 65355 C: 660-723-0411 carolyns217@gmail.com Lindy Capps District 8 2718 Gardenview Drive Jefferson City, MO 65109

l.capps@hotmail.com Sandy Gordinier 1743 Sweet Tree Lane District 9 Wright City, MO 63390 314-324-0432 sgordinier@directv.net
Ninphia Ridley District 10

15 Shireford Ln Ferguson, MO 63135 314-524-1942 No one listed District 11/12 District 13

Roselee Buatte 16483 Kimmel Road Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670 H: 573-883-7536

Email: donbuatte@yahoo.com Vickie Wilson District 14 P.O. Box 1154 Sikeston, MO 63801 573-703-6646 Email: vicwilson62@yahoo.com

Linda Jelinek 17605 Lawrence 1070 District 15 Monett, MO 65708 417-236-4800 jelinek@mo-net.com omaljelinek@gmail.com

Darline Enloe District 16 P.O. Box 96 Stanton, MO 63079 C: 636-375-6988 ednlo@yahoo.com Jaretta Holt District 17

2841 Bergman St. Springfield, MO 65802-2459 H: 417-576-5982 Email: murphyjaretta@yahoo.com

GIRLS STATE

Macae Mickens, Director

The 78th session of Missouri Girls State was held June 23 through June 29, 2019, on the campus of the University of Central Missouri. It has been held at UCM since 1998. ALA MGS 2019 finished the week with 744 delegates. We did have 18 "no shows," which was an increase from seven last year. During the last three years, we have continued to do our in-person Briefings across the state but have also added an online video and follow-up survey option. This year we had over 100 girls complete this option which we consider to be a great opportunity. We have continued to find that citizens are getting varied information from Auxiliary Units, American Legion Posts, schools, and ALA MGS staff. When we provide packets in October for 2020, it will be especially valuable if you contact the ALA MGS Director or Dean of Admissions with questions. We want to be sure to provide a uniform response to all citizens and families. We are looking to once again evaluate our Briefing sessions. It may bring possible changes to our spring meetings in 2020.

ALA MGS was honored to hear from Department Commander Kerry Boardman and Department President Sharon Slagle along with several elected officials during the week, including State Auditor Nicole Galloway and Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe. We also enjoyed speakers Colonel Michelle Hovland, Kauffman Foundation CFO Kristin Bechard, Department of Natural Resources Deputy Director Katie Jo Wheeler, Veterans Community Project Founder Bryan Meyer, and DESE Commissioner Margie Vandeven.

The Western District Court of Appeals held oral arguments at ALA MGS. Representatives and Senators were able to travel to Jefferson City on Wednesday where they were assisted by former and current Representatives and Senators. Judge Juliah Otto spoke at Inauguration and swore in our newly elected officials on Friday evening.

newly elected officials on Friday evening.

Our ALA MGS Alumni banquet held on Thursday night was very well attended and allowed for increased awareness of staffing the ALA Missouri Girls State program and also American Legion Auxiliary membership opportunities

We had the opportunity for President Slagle to read and present the ALA eUnit 77 charter to three of its charter members on Wednesday evening. We look forward to this Unit growing and enhancing membership opportunities for ALA MGS alumnae.

Our 2018 Governor Camille Shoals and Superintendent Courtney Wille were outstanding as they presided over the 2019 session. Former Governor Shoals will be attending Southeast Missouri State University in the fall with a major in political science on a pre-law track. Superintendent Wille will be attending Independence Community College in Kansas to play basketball and work toward an occupational therapy or physical therapy degree.

Newly elected Governor Aminhan Lobster was elected at the General election on Thursday night and announced at our Friday morning Assembly. Governor Lobster and Superintendent Hannah Licklider will be in attendance Saturday to address the Auxiliary

attendance Saturday to address the Auxiliary.

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 in the back of the room. Our citizens participated in service projects during the week to include writing letters to Honor Flight participants and writing notes to accompany a large sock donation we are expecting to arrive in the coming weeks. These will be distributed to veterans homes and hospitals that the Department serves.

We were happy to have ALA representation from the Festus Honor Guard present the advancement of our colors at our Opening Assembly on Sunday in addition to American Legion Post 464 present the Tribute to a Fallen Soldier at closing Assembly. We happily hosted visitors from American Legion posts and Auxiliary units during the week. We strongly encourage unit members visit our program during the week. Our program has changed dramatically over 78 sessions. We want to showcase it to you! If you can visit, please let us know. We will have someone explain the events that are happening during your visit

In addition to our official launch of our eUnit, ALA MGS had other highlights for this year. We replaced one of the schools of instruction with an education school. It was well received and allowed us to have a state board of education and state education commissioner. Our Parks and Recreation Directors (one per city) had the opportunity to travel to the Warrensburg Veterans Home to play bingo with our heroes. The smiles and stories shared are sure to impact those ladies for many years. At registration we collected donations for two projects—President Sharon's project, Kids of Our Heroes Adventure Camp, and Missouri Veterans Homes and Hospitals. Nearly \$1,600 was collected for the Adventure Camp. The second donation was passed by the 2018 General Assembly and signed by Governor Shoals. This project gathered nearly \$800 to be divided for use in the Christmas Gift Shops that the Department helps plan and offer around the state.

Shops that the Department helps plan and offer around the state.

I thank Department President Sharon for entrusting me with this program for the second year as Director. Although this year was much more mentally exhausting for me, I am grateful for all the Missouri Girls State and ALA family for the tremendous amount of love and support following my dad's passing last month. I had the pleasure of working with amazing staff members who provided great support in addition to strong partnerships with the American Legion Boys State program and the University of Central Missouri. I look forward to continuing collaboration in the future and making decisions to better suit our future sessions. We want to continue the legacy of ALA MGS for years to come. We look forward to the 2020 session to be held at UCM in Warrensburg June 21 through June 27.

County Government

Joan Vanfossan, Chair

I received reports from four districts. My thanks to those who compiled reports. One response said there were no reports from their units regarding County Government; however, it did say the last County Government Day was held in July 2018. No details of this event were given. I continue to believe there are County Government programs being held, but not reported. If there is a County Government Day held in your district, please take time to report to me. I would like to share that information with our members in hopes of encouraging other districts and units to participate. This year five counties in three districts held County Government Day events, hosting 348 students from 16 schools. Assisting were 24 teachers, 31 Auxiliary members, and 21 American Legion and Sons of the American Legion members. Three featured flag folding ceremonies. One CGD was attended by a congressman to recognize a student for acceptance to the Naval Academy.

The numbers of those participating were down because two counties in District 4 had changes this year. Buchanan County is shifting their CGD from spring to fall so they did not have an event this calendar year. Holt County after 65 years of participation had to cancel the CGD this year because of extreme flooding issues in their county. They hope to have the class that missed this year join with next year's class. These changes represent approximately 150 students who were unable to participate this year.

The certificate for Outstanding Reporting on County Government goes to Perryville Unit 133, District 13, Chairman, Ruby Steffens. Congratulations to this unit chairman.

First-place winner of the essay contest is Kayla Dooley, District 2. Second place winner is Madelynn Mattson, District 4. Congratulations to these young women. Our thanks to all the students who participated in the contest.

Thank you to the Auxiliary members who worked to provide this program for the students in your communities. Promoting Americanism and patriotism is a priority of our American Legion Auxiliary. The County Government program assists us in reaching that goal



PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY

Rosemarie W. Hauck, Chair

Our past Presidents kept busy this year by mentoring new officers in their duties and giving advice when needed. Several District and Unit Parleys had luncheons during the year. One District had a Hawaiian Luau with 44 Past District and Unit Presidents attending. One Unit took seven of its 10 Past presidents to dinner on Valentine's Day.

seven of its 10 Past presidents to dinner on Valentine's Day.

Thirty-four Units reported having Past Presidents Parleys. Three Units gave personal Nurses Scholarship donations for a total of \$455. Twenty-four Units located a total of 62 women veterans. These women veterans received cards on their birthdays, Veterans Day and other major holidays. Five hundred fifty-two cards were sent. Units helped the women veterans in various ways, including taking them to doctors and veterans hospitals, providing personal toiletries, quilting materials, lap robes, etc. Several Units made visits to women veterans who are shut-in and in veterans hospitals and veterans homes. Four Units nominated a unit Member of the Year

I sadly report the passing of Past President Mary Pisciotta. A donation was made in her memory to the John Knox Village Hospice.

During the 2018-2019 PPP year we have honored Past Department presidents. To conclude our tribute, our salute goes out to Past Department Presidents Ms. Laura Mosby, Mrs. Barbara Sheets, Mrs. Anita (Dennis) Smith, Mrs. Gayle (Donald) Metzinger, Mrs. Cathie (Kenneth) Goth, and Mrs. Cayolyn (Bishord) Sanford

Mrs. Carolyn (Richard) Sanford.

As an active member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Laura Mosby is a member who has served as President of Unit 58 in Smithville, President of 3rd District, and Department President in 2012-2013. Laura's membership pin was "Honoring Their Services" with an emphasis on the POW/MIA. Her special project was Camp Hope. When you can't find her in the Kansas City Saint Luke's Hospital Housekeeping Department, you will find her baking cookies at the American Legion Post. Quite an asset for the Post wouldn't you say? She is a devout Nebraska Cornhusker.

As an active member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Barbara Sheets served as President of Unit 323 in Wentzville, President of 9th District and Department President in2013-2014. Barbara's theme and membership pin was "Wheels Turning to Serve Veterans." Her special project was the USO at St. Louis Lambert International Airport.

Barb worked at the USO at one time. Barb continues working her theme as an active member of the American Legion Riders. She and her three-wheeler bike have traveled miles to be an advocate for our veterans, that includes riding to Washington, D.C. You go Barb, not what I would do

Being an active American Legion Auxiliary member, Anita Smith served as President of Unit 228 in Milan, President of 2nd District, and Department President in 2014-2015. Anita's theme was "Coming Together as One to Better Serve The Veterans, Military and Their Families." Her membership pin was "Stitched Together for Our Veterans." Her special project was the Department Office. Anita loves quilting, and working in the family business, "The Stanley Hotel" in Milan. If you want a short getaway, book a room at her hotel.

Gayle Metzinger is an active American Legion Auxiliary member, having served as President of Unit 21 in Independence, President of 5th District, and Department President in 2015-2016. Gayle's theme was 'We Have Your Six' chosen to honor husband's service in the U.S. Air Force; her membership pin was "Keeping The Promise" with an emphasis on women veterans. Her special project was Camp Valor Outdoors.

As an active member of the ALA, Cathie Goth has served as President of Unit 14 in Clinton, 6th District President and Department President in 2016-2017. Cathie's theme was "Who We Are, What We Do, and Why It Matters." Her membership pin was "Who We Are, What We Do" with emphasis on the POW/MIA. Her special project was the Jefferson Barrack POW/MIA Museum in St. Louis. Cathie is now happily retired from the

Carolyn Sanford is an active American Legion Auxiliary member who has served as President of Unit 217 in Warsaw, President of 7th District, and Department President in 2017-2018. Carolyn's theme and membership pin was "We Are Family" with an emphasis on the American Legion family. Her project was the Fisher House located on the grounds of the Harry S. Truman VA Medical Center in Columbia. She had the honor to participate in the groundbreaking ceremony for the house. Carolyn has served as Department VA R Representative at the Truman Medical

Center. She is currently serving as National Executive Committeewoman. Another active member of the ALA, Martha Yancey has served as President of Unit 131 in Warrensburg and President of 6th District. She is the second longest standing active Past Department President having served in 1987-1988. Her membership pin was a "Pioneer Woman." Martha was married to Past National Executive Committeeman Sam Yancey for 64 years. They had three sons and two daughters. One son is now deceased. The family has increased by nine grandchildren, great grand-children and even great-great-grandchildren. Martha loves to read, sew, and embroidery. After Sam's death she made pillows out of his shirts for each of the grandchildren. I still have a pillow she made for me with my favorite colors many years ago. Her favorite color is green. She also loves the Kansas City Royals. She has served as a County Counselor and Director of the ALA Missouri Girls State program. Through her dedication to the ALA each of us benefit from her talents as she continues to give her service to the Department Finance Committee.

The Nurses Scholarship recipient is 17-year-old Gracie Marie Huels of Union, Mo. In her essay Gracie stated, "People become nurses for various reasons: to help others, to have job security, to work in a well-respected profession, because they have a family member who is a nurse, and so on. I don't believe that I ever necessarily chose to become a nurse; I believe I am just continuing the vocation I have practiced as a young teenager through unfortunate family medical experiences. To me being a nurse is using our kind, patient, and compassionate hearts each day to ensure a patient can live the most fulfilling lives possible."

The Unit Member of the Year is a very busy person. A brief summary of her nomination shows that she serves as Unit chairman of Junior Activities. Under her tutorage the Unit Junior program is now 100 members strong with 34 of those members active within the Unit on a regular basis. Under Shayli Larabee's leadership and guidance the Juniors have logged a total of 616.5 activity hours. Two hundred forty-three of the hours, Junior members served veterans in their community. This is amazing since Burlington Junction is a community of 500 residents. She accomplishes this while being a wife and a mother of three young children. She is truly an asset to Unit 315, District 4. Congratulations to the Unit Member of the Year. Mrs. Shayli Larabee of Burlington Junction. Mo.!

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

Cathie Goth, Chai

American Legion Auxiliary is pleased to report a 100% reports from all 16 Districts. The districts reported impact numbers of Service to Veterans with 11 Districts and 43 Units submitting end of year narrative reports. These reports reflect 56,592 volunteer hours, \$271,059 spent to date serving approximately 36,000 veterans.

The Department held the successful and popular Christmers.

The Department held the successful and popular Christmas Gift Shops. The Gift Shops were held at Cape Girardeau Veterans Home, Mexico Veterans Home, Mount Vernon Veterans Home, Warrensburg Veterans Home, St. James Veterans Home, St. Louis Veterans Home, and Cameron

Veterans Home. The Medical Centers served with a Gift Shop were Jefferson Barracks, John Cochran, Harry S. Truman, KC VAMC and John J. Perishing Hospital. Auxiliary representatives also assisted at Medical Centers in Fayetteville, Arkansas and Leavenworth, Kansas. At the annual volunteer luncheon the American Legion Auxiliary was named the Volunteer Organization of the Year. What an honor!

With grant funding from the American Legion Foundation the Department of Missouri was able to provide funding for much needed art supplies for Creative Arts Festivals held at Jefferson Barracks VAMC and Harry S. Truman VAMC. The smiles and thank-you received from the veterans were priceless.

One highlight was the ribbon cutting and grand opening for the Gene Taylor Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Springfield. This 63,000-square-foot facility will provide medical services for the southwestern part of the state and estimates seeing in excess of 17,000 veterans annually. This is a great addition to service to our veterans.

Units reported a variety of activities and events. units participated in the caregiver support program by helping when needed and distributing articles about benefits provided. Activities included helping veterans sign for Honor Flights, helping fund local Family Readiness Groups for family Christmas parties, and preparing lunches and care packages to distribute to homeless veterans through local missions. Several units in the St. Louis area participated in "Honor Our Veterans" Health & Benefit Event-Claims Clinic in St. Charles. One unit helped a veteran single mom with funding to help her catch up on medical bills along with a "Paper Products and Cleaning Supplies Drive" to benefit the Jefferson Barracks Food Pantry. Another unit reported making several trips to Springfield to deliver gently used clothing, coats, and shoes to the **Home at Last** program. This program serves homeless veterans. Currently they have assisted 134 veterans and their families in the Springfield area. This unit delivered cookies to the staff of the Home at Last to thank them for their kindness. Funding was provided for a veteran awaiting admittance into a VA home for treatment of PTSD to cover the cost of a hotel room and meals. A point of contact has been established between this unit and local hotels in the area to assist with veterans housing when needed. This POC also assisted a female veteran with scheduling a consultation appointment, funding for food and clothing, helped her secure a copy of her DD214 and assisted in getting an appointment with a Veterans Service Officer. One unit developed a sweet way to raise funds and solicit membership by hosting a cookie sale at the post's Friday night The unit has five cookie teams and averages \$100 per Friday night. This fund is used for VA & R activities. One district reported Buddy Suppers held by posts and units throughout the district. A Quilt of Valor was presented to a post member, flowers were placed in local churches to thank veterans for their service, and one unit sponsored "Prom Night" at the local post for members of the American Legion family, culminating in crowning the Post Prom King and Queen. This same unit helped a young military wife get transportation to California to meet her husband returning from deployment. Another unit reports partnering with nonprofits provide service to veterans. These nonprofits include Trinity Circle Horse Healing Hearts; Kids of our Heroes Adventure Camp; Quest Regional Veterans Services; Heartland Cannes for Veterans; and

One-Veteran-One-Dog-Two-Lives.

This is only a sampling of the work done by dedicated members in the Department of Missouri ALA.

Scholarship Winners

Lori Yount, Education Chair

Congratulations to Charlotte Weaver for being Missouri's candidate for the Non-Traditional Scholarship for the National Central Division.

Samantha Reeves was Missouri's candidate for both the Spirit of Youth and Children of Warriors scholarships and represented Missouri in the National Central Division competition.

Unfortunately, neither candidate was a National winner; however, the Department of Missouri did award \$500 scholarships to our top candidates for both scholarships.

Essay Contest Christie Schepers, Chair

Americanism Essay
Contest title this year was
"How Can We Address and
Prevent Homelessness in our
Communities." Thirty essays
from district winners were

received.

The first place winners in each class: Class 1 —Joann Perkins, Unit 57; Class 2 —Maren Cunningham, Unit 372; Class 3—Mackenzie Blackford, Unit 25; Class 4—Jacob King, Unit 372; Class 5—Olivia Miller, Unit 305; and Class 6—Jaxton Burns,

They each received a certificate and check. Congratulations!

Unit 287. They



Dr. Cynthia Gray, Chair

Reports from 35 Units and eight were received listing various activities supporting the Several units Poppy program. mentioned the age of members prohibited distribution activities. District 6 called each unit for a report thus being a 100% reporting.

included Several units American Legion family in their distribution activities. One Junior member asked her classmates to make cards for soldiers. She taped a poppy to 386 cards and sent them to Walter Reed Hospital, Washington, D.C. Another Junior asked her third-grade classmates to make placemats for veterans' breakfast and included a poppy with each. Another Junior donated her portion of a family garage sale to the Poppy Fund. Other Juniors made posters for Unit distribution events. They also gave copies of the Poppy story and poem "In Flanders Field" among the audience before patriotic ceremonies.

Units used a variety of methods to implement their Poppy program. District 7 submitted a formal District Poppy program. One Unit completed a year long Poppy Drive beginning August with installation of officers by making Poppies available all the time. Distribution centers. Their major emphasis was the 100th anniversary of the WWI Armistice November 11, 1918. They made a poster on which people could place a remembrance card with name and a sentiment—FOR GOD AND COUNTRY, IN MEMORY OF, HONORING THEIR SERVICE. Several units kept a basket of Poppies on the bar at the Post home and always in view for those wanting to donate. Others kept Poppy cans at local merchants and the cans were checked weekly for donations.

Units held Poppy programs in churches, schools, Scout meetings, civic organizations, WWII reenactments, and JROTC groups. Several units reported they were creative in finding new locations because large stores have strict insurance rules. New locations included sporting goods stores, shopping centers, town squares, local food and convenience stores, and restaurants. Several units were able to have booths at community garage sales and craft shows.

A new Poppy chair reported that reading "In Flanders Field" is now more meaningful since being involved in the Poppy program. Another Poppy chair reported for the Unit's Spring Luncheon she made a felt poppy corsage pin for the 90 attendees with a poem-

I'll wear this little poppy As red as can be To show that I remember

Those who fought and died for me. Besides corsages, Units made wall decorations, table centerpieces, and gave poppies to nursing home residents and at unit recruiting events. One unit made a poster WE [HEART] OUR VETERANS with 100 poppies filling the heart. One unit decided to become poppy makers.

Reports mentioned insights and realizations that resulted in distribution revisions, goal changes, increase in poppy orders, additional distribution dates and location changes. Members wear poppy pins on their hats and lapels. Units with Junior members plan to revive Miss Poppy and Poppy Poster Contests.

A few units reported using nontraditional poppy items such as felt poppies, magnets, stickers, ornaments and pins. One Poppy chair made a counted cross-stitch poppy bouquet. Several units used my slogan: EVERY DAY IS POPPY DAY. Some expanded distribution days were National Poppy Day, entire Memorial Day weekend, Veterans Day, Armed Forces Day, and Independence Day. developed year-round schedules with 2-hour shifts.

My primary goal has been education and sharing information on Poppy participation changes. We need to use the correct information and be familiar with the revised Poppy Program 2018 guide containing the current changes. National expanded our fundraising opportunity. We can now sell nontraditional items as well as distribute for donations traditional crepe paper poppies. Poppy funds are no longer just for veterans. They may be used for active military and their families under specific circumstances. We are encouraged to make poppies available year-round rather than on a few patriotic or military holidays.

Units are encouraged to submit narrative poppy reports using sentences and not "fill-in-the blanks"with numbers. Include in this narrative report specific information on how the Poppy program was promoted. Pictures can be included with description.

POPPY PROGRAM PRESENTATION is a basic program with additional information to include more details depending on the audience.

A suggestion for improving the Unit Poppy program is changing the attitude about reports. Make the report work for your unit, not just for Department or National. Does your Ûnit Poppy program measure success? Have a plan for distribution of the traditional crepe paper poppy. How many poppies will you distribute and are they ordered? Are all members of the American Legion Family participating in the activity? Has the activity been publicized?

Get competitive in prices for non-traditional poppy items. Find new outlets such as craft fairs, community or post events. Evaluate the activity with a written summary report containing specific details of the activity telling how the unit planned and met its goals. Log the volunteer numbers but isn't necessary to break down who they Keep track of time spent preparing for the activity and the mileage used in all phases of the activity. The narrative report might include anecdotes of happenings at the distribution locations. Present this report at a unit meeting as part of the minutes to be used in planning the next activity.

Lt. Col. John McCrae wrote the poem "In Flanders Field" using the American Legion Poppy as the

AMERICANISM REPORT

Catherine Auffert, Chairman

Fourteen Districts reported Americanism activities. Units and districts have participated in Memorial Day ceremonies and some units assisted the post in presenting the programs. A large percentage of the Auxiliary members attended and wore branded shirts. Members have also assisted with the program at Jacksonville Veterans Cemetery. Another unit placed a wreath at the cemetery and read the names of local veterans who were entombed there. An auxiliary president placed a flower at the base of the flag as part of a ceremony.

On Flag Day a middle school held a flag retirement ceremony that the auxiliary conducted. They were joined by local veterans, VFW Post, The American Legion Post, High School ROTC, and the Volunteer Fire Department. The American Legion Color Guard raised and lowered the flag. Taps were played, the JROTC students helped burn the flags with the local Volunteer Fire Department on standby. A National Honor Society student collected flags and held a flag retirement ceremony

as his service project.

Veterans Day programs and ceremonies were held in schools and courthouses with auxiliary members assisting. One unit prepared and served a ham/bean dinner to serve the veterans and families. A second-grade class had a coin drive and a coloring contest. The money collected went to the local NCO fund of the 1221st Transportation Unit. Colored pictures, letters, and homemade cards were sent to the VA hospital and nursing homes for the

Auxiliary members encouraged all members to vote in the August and November elections. Several members worked at the polls.

Some members plan to attend the Wreaths Across America Ceremony at the Jacksonville Veterans Cemetery. A unit participated in a POW/MIA ceremony, attended a dedication to a new Veterans Park, and held a thank-you lunch for veterans. Several units are assisting with the pocket flag program.

Many members have participated in local parades, school parades, Christmas parades, Fourth of July parade, and always displaying the American flag. They walk along the float and distribute flags to the spectators.

Many units promoted the Americanism Essay Contest to the area schools. Winning essays were published in the local paper, dinners were held for the winners, and monetary awards were presented. There were 412 entries, 42 volunteer hours, and spent \$312.

Units participated in County Government Day and several held a flag folding ceremony. Flag Education was promoted by distributing flag brochures to schools. One unit purchased the DVD "For Which It Stands" and

showed it to schools. Presentations were held at local organizations that included, "The Table Set for One," the "Poppy Story," and "Four Chaplains." Post homes were decorated for holidays.

One unit hosted their first annual Patriotic Day. They served a meal to two veterans and three active duty service members. state representative also attended. Activities included kids' games, music, raffles, and military vehicles.

Letters were sent to the editor to be published in the newspapers. A hundred lap blankets were made and sent to nursing homes for

In addition to the numbers already given, there were 68 events, 195 members participated, 1,300 veterans served, 761 hours, and More information cost \$5788.99. includes 23 patriotic programs, 205 volunteer hours, 10 Flag Education programs, nine units participated in flag disposal ceremonies, 15 units participated in flag folding ceremonies or the meaning of the Folds ceremony.

This is just a small amount of work and activities that Auxiliary members completed and reported. Thank you for all the Americanism

The first Unit award is Unit 578, District 1; and the second place is Unit 153, District 14,

The first District award is District 1; and the second place is District 14.

Historian Report

Vera Gerner-Taylor, **Department Historian**

It is very important for units and districts to compile a History book each year. How will our youth of today know what we auxiliary members have done in the past if we do not keep some sort of records? They should be available for reference when it is time to take our place in years to come.

There have been times when we have had to look back and see who our unit presidents were from the time our unit got its charter. This information was needed in order to have a plaque made displaying all their names and the year they This information could be found in old history books or in past minutes. I cannot stress enough the importance of keeping all your minutes and history books. How many units have their minute books from the time their unit was chartered?

Several units have a cabinet holding their Cavalcade of Memories and other past important unit Ŝeveral units display pictures of their past presidents.

Missouri has 202 units, 1 Department Unit #1000 plus 1 E-mail unit. Reports were received from 11 of the 16 districts.

Best Unit History report was Annette Wells, Unit 153, District 14; Best District History report Cecelia Miller, District 15; Best Unit Cavalcade of Memories report Annette Wells, Unit 153, District 14; Best District Cavalcade of Memories report Anne Quick, District 14; Best Unit History Book Wilma Jobson, Unit 57, District 2; and Best District History Book Ruth Wiemann,

I received a report from Unit #153 I found interesting and would like to share it with you. unit reviews a different history scrapbook at each meeting. In one book unit member, Annette Wells found that the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Missouri

has a Memorial Forest. History is not just remembering what used to be, but learning from the past to make a better future. Many times our history is put back on the shelf and forgotten in time. This is what has happened to our Auxiliary. Recently a family of a past president donated her history books to us. While reviewing them I found a picture of a road sign. It read: American Legion Auxiliary Memorial Forest, Established in 1949 by the American Legion Auxilliary Department of Missouri in cooperation with Mark Twain National Forest. The sign does have two l's in auxiliary.

I began my quest to locate this forest. After calling the local forestry service and the state forestry service, I felt let down. No one could find this forest. Then my husband did a massive internet search and managed to find a small notation on a highway plan that mentioned the forest. It read: A small parcel of land identified as "American Legion Auxiliary Memorial Forest" established in 1949, is situated north of current US Highway 60. There is a small marker identifying the sight. but there are no facilities on that

I contacted the state forestry service again and after much time was able to locate the land near Ellisnore. It was a 20-acre forest that was designated by the Department of Missouri so the memories of our losses during the great war might live on. A wonderful gesture, but it was forgotten.

Since the highway documentation, a new highway has been built and a huge tornado went through that area. The sign is long gone and the forest is a shrub-land that is home to an abundance of wildlife.

I have contacted the forestry service and our state legislators. They do not wish to change the original area or disturb it. They have given us the option of designating another area close by the Pineywoods Nature area to be the new American Legion Auxiliary Memorial Forest. This is wonderful as there is an area to park and more people will see it.

I am now at the fundraising part of this project, because the forestry department does not have the money to make and install a sign. They can do it costing \$1,500. This is where the report ends; hopefully to be continued next year with hopes of having pictures of our new forest and sign. No money was spent on the project this year, but there were 62 volunteer hours.

EDUCATION

Lori Yount, Chair

Many great programs in the ALA can take pride in participation and virtually every part of the Education program was supported.

The following are some of the ideas used to promote the Education program:

 School Supplies Over \$1,000 in school supplies were provided to schools, and food pantries that serve veterans and military families.

• Help was also provided through collecting Box Tops for Education and old cellphones and printer ink cartridges.

• Donations to various school including newspaper education. book fairs, athletic booster club, high school after prom party, and project graduation.

One of the most exciting ways of promoting education was through Unit scholarships. Fiftynine scholarships were awarded at a value of \$20.300.

MO didn't win any Central Scholarships, Division National but some great candidates were forwarded Divisional the Chairman.

Some thoughts to consider for the new year...

National Scholarships-Children of Warriors, Spirit of Youth, and Non-Traditional Student. These are awarded by the Central Division at NO COST to the units. They are funded by donations.

• Units can promote these scholarships to eligible students. Units can select their best candidates and send to Department. Then one candidate will be selected and forwarded to Central Division.

Units need to promote these scholarships in their areas.

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 - JULY 2019**

Name Jean Elliott District Unit La Plata, MO Callao, MO 360 Javne Roberts 2 274 Mary L. Crooks Washington, MO 3 61 Shirley Nichols Kansas City, MO Lois Derr Maitland, MO 4 Florence M. Sale Saint Joseph, MO 359 21Stella Garrison Trimble, MO 5555555Kansas City, MO 21 Catherine M. Bybee 21 Mary Pisciotta Maxine E. Wright Lees Summit, MO $\overline{21}$ Grandview, MO 21 Theodora C. Dooling Olathe, KS Gwyn L .Chambers Lees Summit, MO 6 Clydine Bruch Columbia, MO 230 Faye Hammons Stockton, MO Springfield, MO Marsahll, MO 6 7 7 498 Erma A. Plank Imogene Chevalier 191 491 Julia M. Dove Green Ridge, MO 8 8 Bernice Gilpin Ashland, MO 152 Fort Myers, FL Wilma J. Harper 624 9 Judith Marquart Washington, MO 9 218 Nicole Barton Washington, MO 9 9 9 297 Marie J. Straatmann Union, MO Saint Charles, MO 312 Eula Eickelberg Grace C. Moore 312 Saint Charles, MO 9 Wentzville, MO 323 Irene Knight 9 Wilma E. Lalonde Sikeston, MO 323 10 Elizabeth Cammarata Saint Louis, MO Saint Charles, MO 10 Mary Hughes 10 400 G. Gale Robinson Arnold, MO Perryville, MO 13 13 13 133 Mary Schremp Ste. Genevieve, MO 150 Gloria Huber 416 Clara Milster Eureka, MO 14 114 Lova Dickson Sikeston, MO 14 Brenda F. Hanner 153 Poplar Bluff, MO 14 Minnie S. Tinnin Arbyrd, MO 15 Nellie R. Hailey Mount Vernon, MO 15 372Natalie Wehrman Lockwood, MO 16 12 Shirley James Vienna, MO Seymour, MO 306 Mary Turner 1000 Graham MO Doris Messick 1000 Barbara McVay Trenton MO

Calendar of Activities

August 23-29

National Convention; Indianapolis, IN.

October 18-20

Fall Conference; Jefferson City, MO.

District Meetings

District 1 August 4; Hannibal Post #55; 2:00 p.m. District 2 September 28; Bucklin Post #57 October 13; Excelsior Springs Post #236 District 3 District 5 August 21; Hostess Unit #189; DAV Bldg; 14605 E. US Hwy. 40; KC

District 10 August 8; Post #162; 7:30 p.m.

District 13 September 8; Farmington Post #416; 2:00 p.m. District 14

November 3; Benton Post #369