

# The Missouri Legionette



Official Publication for the American Legion Auxiliary of Missouri

Volume LXXV

THE MISSOURI LEGIONETTE

MARCH/APRIL 2017

NUMBER 2

## President's Message



Department President  
Cathie Goth  
Unit 14, District 6

**Who We Are:** As President of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Missouri, I had the privilege of assisting Missouri's American Legion Commander Elizabeth "Betty" Gonzales place a wreath on behalf of Missouri as part of the annual Pilgrimage to Abraham Lincoln's tomb February 12, 2017, in Springfield, Illinois. The words from President Lincoln's second inaugural address that became the origin of the VA Motto are as relevant today as they were when first spoken March 4, 1865:

*"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."*

**What We Do:** The American Legion Auxiliary advocates for veterans, military and their families. Whether it is Auxiliary members attending and participating in rallies at our state capitol building in Jefferson City during MAVO (Missouri's Association of Veterans Organizations) days or taking part in the annual "Hill Walk," visiting congressmen and -women while attending the Washington, D.C., Conference Auxiliary members advocate for veterans and military and their families.

Auxiliary members attending the Spring Conference February 18 and 19 in Jefferson City were treated to a full agenda. National President Mary E. Davis joined the Department of Missouri for the weekend and what a weekend it was! NEC Gayle Metzinger presented a program on mental health, with Corretta Schoer of District 10 giving a very informative power point presentation outlining many of the basics of mental health and how to recognize and address many issues in our day-to-day lives. This year a community service project was incorporated into the Spring Conference, donations of items for the food pantry located at the Blue Armory in Jefferson City. This pantry serves not only National Guardsmen, but any military and veterans, as well as other individuals needing assistance in the community. A tremendous amount of goods was delivered to the Blue Armory by Auxiliary members, with the help from the Sons of the Legion, along with a monetary donation of \$3,000 that brought tears to all in



NEC Gayle Metzinger, Past Department President Claudia Goodin and Department President Cathie Goth visited the Vietnam Wall in February while at the Washington, D.C., conference.

attendance; a new auxiliary member also was gained that morning. This community service project, along with rallies and hill walks, are just two examples of the countless ways Auxiliary members serve.

**Why It Matters:** It matters because every Auxiliary member is a member of the world's largest women's patriotic service organization through the selfless service and sacrifice of a loved one, a veteran, or a current member of the United States military.

In closing, please remember to be kind to each other, compassion and tolerance cost nothing but provide tremendous returns.

## Forty-Third Annual Truman Pilgrimage

Dorothy Ballew, Chairman

The annual Truman Pilgrimage of the American Legion and its Auxiliary organization under the auspices of the Tiry J. Post 21 will be held May 8 in Independence, Missouri, at the Harry S. Truman Library.

This will be the 44th year Missourians and Legionnaires from surrounding states have gathered at the Truman Library to honor the memory of the first Legionnaire to become president of the United States.

The event will start Sunday, May 7, with an open house at Tiry J. Ford Post home, 16701 E. 40 Highway, Independence, at 6:00 p.m. Refreshments and entertainment will be provided by the Auxiliary and Post.

On Monday morning, May 8, those participating are asked to enter by the main entrance of the Truman Library at 9:00 a.m. A procession will form and proceed to the courtyard where the president is buried. At that time a brief memorial service will be conducted and the wreaths will be placed at the gravesite.

A luncheon sponsored by Post 21 will be served at noon, May 8 at the Tiry J. Ford Post home, located at 16701 E. 40 Highway. Advance tickets for the luncheon are required. Checks for the tickets should arrive no later than April 24. Tickets are \$20 each and will be held for your arrival. Checks should be made pay-

## Central Division Vice President Carolee Junge

The 2016-2017 Central Division Vice President Carolee Junge hails from Illinois and in her capacity as CDVP (Central Division Vice President) is serving the Departments of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, West Virginia and Wisconsin. CDVP Carolee will be visiting Missouri during the Truman Pilgrimage May 7 and 8 in Independence, Missouri. The Truman Pilgrimage is an annual event hosted by Post and Unit 21 of Independence, honoring the life and service of Missouri's own Harry S. Truman, the 33rd President of the United States. Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend the 2017 Truman Pilgrimage.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Carolyn Sanford,  
Co-Membership Chairman



Congratulations to the 44 units that have achieved 100 percent or better of their 2016 membership. Department membership is 83.06 percent. Thank you for the work each of you is doing to enhance the experience of every member.

Recruiting new members is great but it is still very important to pursue your renewals. Some members don't want to renew because they can't attend meetings. Remind them that their dues help the American Legion Auxiliary achieve our goal of helping the veterans.

Making a personal visit to those who can't or don't attend meetings is important to make these members feel included. If it is not an obvious reason such as confinement to a nursing home or obvious physical reasons, try to determine why they don't participate. Perhaps you can visit the members and encourage them to attend the meetings or participate in an activity. Make them feel welcome. Your visit might be the high point of their week. Just being acknowledged might change their attitude. This can enhance the member's experience.

Remember membership is the responsibility of everyone, not just the unit or district membership chairman. Feel free to contact an officer a district or division membership chairman for help when needed.



## Secretary's Corner

Nancy Reeves,  
Department Secretary

Happy spring from the Department office! I hope everyone is doing well. The office is busy with Girls State and membership activities. Pledge forms are steadily arriving. Membership is coming along slowly but surely with 83 percent now. If we could give one good push we could be 90 percent by convention in July.

Remember Unit Data forms are due to Department office by April 12. Ladies, it is very important that this form be returned on time. If you did not receive this form, please contact the office immediately so that we can get it to you. The information on this form is used for the renewal notices National sends to every member. After rates are locked the Department is charged \$30 per unit to make corrections. In return, the Department will bill the unit.

Be looking for the EIN tax information to be coming soon. If we have your email address on file you will receive the information via email. Otherwise you will receive it via regular mail. Once you get your information, please contact the office if you have questions. There is much information involved. We want everyone in compliance.

Did you know you can have access to your unit's information in the National Data Base for \$10 a year. You can find everyone in your unit, run your units membership roster and other reports. You cannot make any changes. The National website has a wealth of information, www.alaforveterans.org. The Department website is http://dptmoala2.wixsite.com/deptmoala

## AUXILIARY MISSION

- To support The American Legion and its programs for veterans, young people and community.
- To provide for today's needs while being advocates for a brighter future.
- To advance the understanding of patriotism and responsibility of citizenship.
- To promote individual integrity and family values.
- To ensure, as volunteers, that Auxiliary members continue to promote all that is good in the nation today, tomorrow and for generations to come through serving others first and not self.

(Reprinted from American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters brochure, **This is the American Legion Auxiliary.**)

## able to: American Legion Post 21, Truman Day Luncheon.

Please mail your checks to: **Dorothy Ballew, 432 Cottonwood Drive, Lee's Summit, MO 64064** Please Make Reservations Early!

A briefing will be held at 6:00 p.m. May 7 in the Auxiliary room for those persons placing the wreaths.

Hotel reservations can be made directly with the hotels. Please state you are with **TRUMAN DAYS.**

- Comfort Suites, 19751 E. Valley View Parkway, Independence, MO (Exit 17); Room rate --\$104.00.

- Holiday Inn Express, 19701 E. Valley View Pkwy, Independence, MO 816-795-8889 (Exit 17); Room rate \$104.00.

Special room rate guarantee until April 28.

Everyone is invited to this historic event.

## TRUMAN PILGRIMAGE WREATH ORDER

In order for the Wreath Committee to have program information to the printer on time, we must have your check information by April 24. Wreaths are \$20.00 each. Please make check payable to: **American Legion Post 21, Truman Pilgrimage.** Mail your checks to: Dorothy Ballew, 432 NW Cottonwood Drive, Lee's Summit, MO 64064

Please **PRINT** the following information.

Name of Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Person Laying The Wreath \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please Remember deadline is April 24  
 Thank you for your cooperation.  
 Dorothy Ballew, Chairman  
 ballewdot@yahoo.com • (816) 373-9955

## DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY CELEBRATION BANQUET

Friday, July 14, 2017  
 Capitol Plaza Hotel  
 Jefferson City, Missouri

6:30 p.m. Reception  
 7:00 p.m. Dinner  
 7:30 p.m. Program

Join us for our annual American Legion Family Celebration Banquet celebrating the 2016-2017 Department Commander Elizabeth "Betty" Gonzales and Auxiliary Department President Cathie Goth's year of service to



Please RSVP by July 7, 2017 and remit your banquet reservation(s) of \$30.00 per person to:

Cathie Goth  
 1800 Strawberry Lane  
 Clinton, Missouri 64735  
 1-660-885-5395

Person(s) attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Total included: \_\_\_\_\_

## MOVED?

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

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





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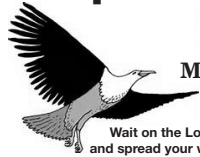
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Fax: (573) 635-3467.  
Email: dptmoala@embarqmail.com.

## Chaplain's Corner

Department  
Chaplain,  
Marsha Mooney



Wait on the Lord  
and spread your wings

The year has been passing with amazing speed, it seems like just yesterday we were at the Convention in July and now Memorial Day is just around the corner. It is also time to make sure that we have finished our reports and they are turned in to your Chairman. I also ask for more prayers for President Cathie's prayer book. You do not have to be a professional writer, send me something that has been a help or comfort to you. A prayer, a poem, a picture or a story. It will be a wonderful keepsake for Cathie after she finishes her year as President.

Since 1968, Memorial Day has been observed on the last Monday in May. This move was made to make it a three-day weekend; however, there are some groups who are lobbying to move Memorial Day back to the original date of May 30. In 1868 General John A. Logan, Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, a veterans organization for Civil War veterans, issued a proclamation calling for "Decoration Day" to be observed annually and nationwide. It was observed for the first time that year on Saturday, May 30. The date was chosen because it was not the anniversary of any particular battle and, according to the White House, the May 30 date was chosen as the optimal date for flowers to be in bloom.

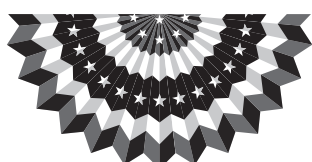
I would like to close my article by sharing a poem by Kelly Strong:

**Freedom is not Free**  
By Kelly Strong

*I watched the flag pass by one day.  
It fluttered in the breeze.  
A young Marine saluted it,  
and then he stood at ease.  
I looked at him in uniform  
So young, so tall, so proud,  
He'd stand out in any crowd.  
I thought how many men like him  
Had fallen through the years.  
How many died on foreign soil?  
How many mothers' tears?  
How many pilots' planes shot down?  
How many died at sea?  
How many foxholes were soldiers' graves?  
No, freedom isn't free.*

*I heard the sound of TAPS one night,  
When everything was still  
I listened to the bugler play  
And felt a sudden chill.  
I wondered just how many times  
That TAPS had meant "Amen,"  
When a flag had draped a coffin  
Of a brother or a friend.  
I thought of all the children,  
Of the mothers and the wives,  
Of fathers, sons and husbands  
With interrupted lives.  
I thought about a graveyard  
At the bottom of the sea  
Of unmarked graves in Arlington.  
No, freedom isn't free.*

History shared was obtained at Wikipedia.



## Spring Conference

Gayle Metzinger, National  
Security Chairman  
Department of Missouri

The Spring Conference was held February 17 through 19 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City, Missouri. We were honored to have our National President Mary Davis in attendance and enjoyed showing her the show-me state of Missouri.

President Mary arrived on Thursday afternoon. She saw the State Capitol and explored the statuary overlooking the Missouri River. After dinner at Ruby Tuesday's we retired for the night.

We were given a tour of the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital in Columbia, Missouri, on Friday. This facility has 110 beds with 1,446 employees; 951 volunteers served a total of 62,808 hours. As part of the Hospital of the Future High Reliability Organization pilot program with the VA National Center for Patient Safety, Truman VA implemented a standardization project, providing Just Culture training for 122 supervisors. The facility prioritized risk reduction and identified improvement opportunities. This VA Hospital is committed to working diligently to serve mid-Missouri veterans. President Mary met with hospital employees and talked to several patients.

The opening was given by Department President Cathie Goth with prayer from Department Chaplain Marsha Mooney. First Vice President Carolyn Stanford led the Pledge of Allegiance and Second Vice President Sharon Slagle recited the Preamble. Past National Chaplain Rosemarie Hauck introduced our guest speaker, Coretta Schroer MSc, R.T. ©, FMOsRT. District 10 First Vice President, Unit 397. Ms. Schroer spoke about mental health issues faced by our returning soldiers. It was a very informative lesson in how to recognize the signs of TBI and PTSD and how to seek aid.

National President Mary Davis gave her greetings and remarks to the assemblage.

National Security Chair Gayle Metzinger presented a program concerning how we, as individual women, can make an impact with strengthening our Units to accept new members and using their unique talents for the betterment of the entire organization. We also learned that Americanism, Children and Youth, and Community Service mandates fall under National Security.

We dismissed our meeting to attend the Four Chaplains Service with the American Legion. Department Chaplain Marsha Mooney assisted in the program. No matter how many times we hear this service, it is always meaningful and brings a tear or two.

After lunch it was time for the State Oratorical Contest. These young people speak with such grace and confidence and prove they are the leaders of tomorrow. It had to be a difficult job for the judges to grade the speakers.

At 7:30 pm a receiving line was held for President Mary Davis in the atrium. Legionnaires and Auxiliary members were given the opportunity to meet our National President.

Marsha Mooney acted as our chauffeur during President Mary's visit. Other than having two right hands, our drive was uneventful and no tickets were issued.

Sunday we reconvened and while President Mary gave greetings to the American Legion, Marsha Mooney gave a Legislative report. Our service project was stocking and monetary donations to the Mid-MO Family PX. Rosemarie Hauck organized this project and facilitated the donations of food, toiletries, baby items and other goods. We collected \$3,000 for additional purchases as needed. Our in-kind dollars equaled \$3,000 as well.

We were dismissed after our trip to the PX. We thank National President Mary for joining us at Spring Conference and hope she had an enjoyable time.

## Constitution & Bylaws

Roberta Pointer, chairman

Our committee met at Fall Conference and reviewed the Constitution, Bylaws, Standing Rules, Policies and Procedures, and any material referred to us by the membership.

### Standing Rules:

**This is a Standing Rule wording change that will conform to the National change.**

**Does not need a vote.**

DEPARTMENT CORE STANDING COMMITTEES:

### Reads now:

a) VA&R, shall consist of four members on a staggered three-year

rotation: one (1) three-year; one (1) two-year and (2) one-year with the Second Vice President as co-chairman, including the **Field and Home Services** component. The Second Vice President shall be a part of the VA&R audit committee as an advisory member.

### Proposed:

a) VA&R, shall consist of four members on a staggered three-year rotation: one (1) three-year; one (1) two-year and two (2) one-year with the Second Vice President as co-chairman, including the **Service to Veterans** component. The Second Vice President shall be a part of the VA&R audit committee as an advisory member.

**Part of this standing rules is being deleted because it is no longer relevant.**

28. Department Conference and Convention:

### Delete

e. The Junior Delegate and Alternate to National Convention will receive amount budgeted.

**The committee is recommending this change to the standing rule 31.**

### 31. Reads now:

Thirty (\$30.00) dollars will be allowed to each District President for postage only, for materials from the Department to the Units.

### Proposed:

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

### Constitution:

**This is the proposed Constitution amendment that will be voted on at the Department Convention in July.**

Article IV, Department Officers: Section 2

### Reads now:

The retiring Department President shall be the National Executive Committeewoman, and her alternate shall be the incoming Department President.

### Proposed:

The Department Convention, in even numbered years, shall elect a National Executive Committeewoman and an Alternate National Executive Committeewoman for a term of two (2) years each. If a vacancy should occur in the office of National Executive Committeewoman, the Alternate National Executive Committeewoman shall serve as National Executive Committeewoman for the remaining period of the unexpired term. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Alternate National Executive Committeewoman, the vacancy shall be filled by an appointment by the Department Executive Committee.

**If the Constitutional amendment passes the following changes will be voted on.**

### Bylaws:

**Article II, Election of Officers: Section 4**

### Now reads:

The term of office of the National Executive Committeewoman shall commence immediately following the adjournment of the National Convention next ensuing, and shall end at the adjournment of the next succeeding National Convention.

### Proposed:

The term of office of the National Executive Committeewoman and Alternate National Executive Committeewoman shall commence immediately following adjournment of the National Convention next ensuing and shall hold their respective office until their successor is elected or appointed. The National Executive Committeewoman and Alternate National Executive Committeewoman shall not be elected to more than two consecutive terms each.

**Policy and Procedure: This will be voted on by the DEC.**

### District Presidents

### YEARBOOK

### Reads now:

A yearbook is to be given to each Department Officer, including the Department Secretary at Fall Conference. Also give one to Girls State Director. Other Department Chairmen may request one, so additional copies should be available.

### Proposed:

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

**Department Historian - This is a change to conform to National - no vote needed.**

### Reads now:

Compiling of the Department History is the responsibility of the Department Historian.

### Proposed:

Compiling of the Department History and **Cavalcade of Memories** is the responsibility of the Department Historian.



## History and Cavalcade Of Memories

Judy Donati – Dept. Historian

**REMINDER:** District Historians, if you've not submitted to me three (or more) activities, volunteer time, or other events that are significant for your District and Units please do so ASAP. Perhaps your District or Unit was in a parade. Maybe you collected items for a military family or pantry. Perhaps you hosted an event for your community such as a garage sale or bake sale. Did you make goodie or personal care bags for the veterans home? BRAG TO ME ABOUT IT!

In viewing the ALA Dept. videos on YouTube, I was sad to see none from Missouri. I hope Units are making "Members Remember" History videos.

### CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY

During March was International's Women's Day. What could be better for a women's organization to do than celebrate their own history. Even though the date has come and gone doesn't mean you can't still celebrate. Here are some ideas:

- Learn more about Auxiliary members who made history in your Unit. Share this information with the community.
- Celebrate the women in your life – take them out to lunch; have a special gathering; call them, etc.
- Donate money to your Cavalcade of Memories in honor of a special woman in your life.
- Set up a display in honor of those members who have gone above and beyond the ALA's mission — set them up in your community, not only the Legion...maybe the library; a bank; a community service center; or senior citizen center.
- Write an article for your Units newsletter or local newspaper celebrating a Unit Member.
- Hold a fashion show of then and now.

Share this with your Junior members. Ask them to write about their Auxiliary role models.

## Public Relations

Vera Gerner-Taylor, Chairman

Are you remembering how very important it is to keep the word of the American Legion Auxiliary out in your community? Let them know who we are, what we do and why we matter. This can be done in many ways, through newspaper articles and pictures, Facebook, Twitter, radio, television, wearing American Legion Auxiliary apparel and word of mouth. Ladies, continue to get word out about all we do for the veterans and our active duty servicemen and servicewomen.

Press book rules were given out at Fall Conference to all District Presidents and this information should have been passed down to the units. There will be a Unit and District Press book competition at Convention in July. Please bring your District Press Book and your winning Unit Press Books to convention in July. Prizes will be awarded.

I am in need of newspaper articles and pictures from all units in the state of Missouri for the Press Book for Department President Cathie. Also, you may send me copies of your District and Unit newsletters and any other communication you had within your unit and district.

If you need further information you may contact me at 636-239-4980 or email veragerner@charter.net. Please mail your articles, etc. to me at 1928 Anniston Drive, Washington, MO 63090.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Louise Welch, Chairman

This year is coming to an end for reporting. It has been a busy but fun year. The Community Service program promotes the American Legion Auxiliary's visibility within our communities through our commitment to community, state and nation. By being visible in our communities this program demonstrates who we are, what we do and why we matter.

Now is the time for everyone to become a visible representative of the Auxiliary by wearing the ALA name or emblem and emblem pin.

If you order anything with the ALA name or emblem from a source other than Emblem Sales, remember that a request must first be submitted through your Department to National headquarters for approval by the National Secretary.

Annual reports reflect the program participation in the units.

**REMINDER:** When compiling reports District Chairmen, please report the unit name and number. I need all of your reports by April 24, 2017. Thank you!

## Mexico Veterans Home

Victoria Ornelas, Representative

The veterans Dollar Day was held in November with \$150 distributed. A big thank you to Palmyra Unit #174 for donating \$38 to this event. The Christmas Gift Shop was set up on December 4 and was ready for business on the 5th and 6th. The veterans welcomed the opportunity to shop. I thank all the volunteers for helping and those who donated gifts. Everyone is very caring for our veterans. Wentzville Unit #323 had 10 volunteers. We thank you for your help making this event successful.

## District 7

Deanie Koon, President

District 7 has 17 Units and every one of them has been busy working the programs this year. We have five meetings a year in September, November, January, April and June. The meetings are held at various posts around the district.

We started the year with election of officers in September, helped with the high school Oratorical Contest in Concordia, ordered Poppies for Memorial Day, visited the Warrensburg Veterans Home and the Harry S. Truman VAMC in Columbia. We helped with the Christmas Gift Shops, bingo and various other activities.

Units have participated in parades, made floats, sponsored Baby Shows, Kiddie Parades and worked at food functions, such as ice cream socials, family funeral dinners, farm auctions and cookouts.

During Christmas some units helped families have a nice Christmas dinner and gave gifts to the children. We participated in school activities, sponsored several delegates to Girls State, worked with the Americanism Essay Contest, Poppy Poster Contest and assisted with the County Government program.

The members also take part in community activities, flag-burning ceremonies, Memorial Day ceremonies, decorate graves on Memorial weekend with flags and flowers, Veterans Day celebrations and visited the veterans in nursing homes.

All of the units have donated hundreds of dollars to veterans hospitals and nursing homes, and volunteered many, many hours.

The ladies have accomplished more than I can list. I am very proud of all projects these ladies do for the Auxiliary. *God bless The American Legion family for all you do to make this country a better place.*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICAN LEGION! On Your Birthday

Keep some little dream in the making

If youth you would like to hold.

Old Father Time is defeated by dreams;

A dreamer never grows old.

For dreams have a way of hurrying

The heart, and the years pass you by.

You can always tell the man with a dream

By the ageless gleam in his eye.

So keep a small dream in the making.

It needn't be big or bold —

Just some little dream to beckon you on

And you'll never, never, grow old.

(By: Helen Lowrie Marshall)





## ENDORSEMENT DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CAROLYN SANFORD

At a regular meeting held January 7, 2017, District 7 American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Missouri, endorsed Carolyn Sanford for the office of President for the Department of Missouri for 2017-2018. She is a member of Unit 217 and District 7 for 14 years. She is a life member.

Carolyn is eligible for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary through her husband, Dick Sanford. He served in the U.S. Army during Vietnam. She is also eligible through the service of her father, Edgar W. Crail, who served in the U.S. Army during World War II and the Air Force during Korea.

Carolyn has served her unit as President for five terms, First Vice President, Secretary and Chaplain. She has been Americanism and Community Service Chairman and Girls State Chairman for six years.

At the District level Carolyn has served as First Vice President/Membership for the second year. She has also served as Chairman of Americanism, Constitution and Bylaws, Community Service, Leadership and VA & R.

At the Department level Carolyn is currently serving as First Vice President. She has served as Chaplain, Historian and Second Vice President/VA & R Chair, as well as Community Service Chairman for two years, Child Welfare Chairman and Southwest Division Membership Chairman. She is the ALA representative to MAVO, the Missouri Association of Veteran Organizations. She has been the VAVS Representative to the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veteran Hospital in Columbia for 10 years.

In view of her dedication and service to the American Legion Auxiliary at all levels and veterans in general, District 7 is proud to endorse Carolyn Sanford for the office of President, American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Missouri for 2017-2018.

*Erldene L. Koon* Kathleen Lehigh-Bruner  
Erldene "Deanie" Koon Kathleen Lehigh-Bruner  
President Secretary

## ENDORSEMENT DEPARTMENT 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT SHARON SLAGLE

On November 5, 2016, District 4 of the American Legion Auxiliary, during their District meeting, endorsed Sharon Slagle for the position of Department 1st Vice President for the year 2017-2018.

Sharon Slagle gains her eligibility through her Legionnaire husband, Marlin Slagle, a veteran of the Vietnam era.

She is the mother of four children, 14 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. All of her family members are current members of the American Legion family. The girls/women are either American Legion Auxiliary members or Junior Auxiliary members. One son is a Legionnaire, one granddaughter is a Legionnaire, and the rest of the boys are members of the S.A.L.

Sharon has been an active member of the American Legion Auxiliary for 13 years. On the Unit level she has held several chairmanships and offices. She is presently serving her ninth term as Unit President. She has held the position of Unit 1st Vice President and has been chairman of Americanism, Americanism Essay Contest, Education, Past President's Parley, Leadership, Community Service, Children & Youth and Membership.

On the District level Sharon has served three years as the District 4 President. She has served as District 4 First Vice President, Sgt-at-Arms and Chaplain. Sharon has been the committee chairman for Leadership, Junior Activities, Past President's Parley and Gold Star Mothers.

Sharon has served eight years on the Department of Missouri Audit Committee for the Veterans Homes and Medical Centers, 2014-2015 Department Chaplain, and 2015-2016 Department Historian. She is currently serving as Department of Missouri 2nd Vice President. Sharon attends all the American Legion Auxiliary conferences and conventions, participating in all of their educational workshops.

Sharon Slagle is an asset not only to District 4, but the entire Department of Missouri American Legion Auxiliary membership as a whole. It is with enormous pride that the members of District 4 endorse Sharon Slagle as a candidate for the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Missouri 1st Vice President for 2017-2018.

*Sheridan Mires* Catherine Auffert  
Sheridan Mires Catherine Auffert  
President 4th District Secretary/Treasurer

## District 6

Shirlee Schroder, President

Did you see the article on page 60 in the March 2017 American Legion Auxiliary Magazine? A small town in Idaho almost doubled the size of their unit in under 10 years! Amazing!

The most important thing they did to achieve their success was to be active in their community.

The article did not specify that they submitted pictures and articles to their local newspaper about themselves. However, I can imagine it might have been done. What better way to get your unit noticed than to have your projects and events published in the local newspaper? Cell-phone cameras are a great way to capture our events, and email pictures to the newspaper.

I hope you read this article. It gives great examples of how this unit became a success in a small town in Idaho. Maybe we could copy what they are doing? Wouldn't that be amazing.

## District 6

Shirlee Schroder, President

Wonderful things are being accomplished by our District 6 units. From the continued support of tried and true projects, to the new "learn as we go" projects, to the mentoring of our youth.

Veterans recognition during the holidays and support of veterans in the nursing homes through donations, personal items, and visiting is the normal focus of our units. It is what we do.

Our work continues through support of "tiny home" homes for veterans, service dog support, mailing of packages and correspondence to deployed veterans, and donation of clothing for homeless veterans.

A new project for one unit is "qualifying" to be volunteers at a new veterans' clinic. Training is required, and they are excited to be supportive of these veterans.

Our units mentor the younger generation by partnering with local school culinary arts students to help make pancakes at fundraiser breakfasts, including the Boy Scouts and JROTC, to support the veterans by helping distribute poppies, and utilizing our Junior Auxiliary members to post the Auxiliary flag for veteran assemblies. These are our future Auxiliary members and we include them in our mission of serving veterans.

Thank you to all the Auxiliary members in District 6 for their wonderful support of our veterans.

## District 15

Ellen Arnace, President

I am embracing a change in the weather, the landscape and our end of the year report forms. Many thanks to those responsible for them! I can't wait to see the numbers and impact that has been made by our dedicated women.

Some units have participated in Units United to Make a Difference. Money has been donated to Trinity Circle Horses Healing Hearts, Generations of Heroes Ranch, Heartland Canines for Veterans, One Veteran-One Dog Two Lives Saved, and Kids of Our Heroes Adventure Camp. In

## ENDORSEMENT DEPARTMENT 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT JUDY DONATI

At a regular meeting held October 13, 2016 American Legion Auxiliary District 10, Department of Missouri unanimously endorses Judy Donati for the office of Second Vice President for the Department of Missouri for the year 2017-2018.

Judy has been a member in good standing of Fort Bellefontaine Memorial Unit 335 for 11 years.

Judy is eligible for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary through her father Matthew Borzymoski who served in the U.S. Navy during the Grenada conflict.

Judy has served her unit as President four non-consecutive terms, Secretary for three terms, and Treasurer for two terms. Along with holding many chairman positions throughout those 10 years.

At the district level Judy has served as President for three years, Vice President for one year and Secretary for one year. She has also served as Legislation, Education, Public Relations and Poppy Chairman.

On the Department level Judy served one year as Chaplain, two years as Education chairman, one year as Northeast Division Membership Chairman and currently serving as Historian and Strategic Planning Committee member.

In view of her dedication and service to the American Legion Auxiliary at all levels and veterans in general, we of District 10 proudly present Judy Donati as a candidate for the office of Second Vice President for The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Missouri for 2017-2018.

*Marybeth Roehr*  
Marybeth Roehr, President

*Louise Welch*  
Louise Welch, Secretary

## ENDORSEMENT DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN MARSHA MOONEY

At the February, 2017 meeting of District 5 Department of Missouri, American Legion Auxiliary, Marsha Mooney was unanimously endorsed for the office of Historian for the Department of Missouri for the year 2017-2018.

Marsha has been an active member in good standing of Tired J Ford, Unit 21 for thirteen years. She is eligible for membership in the Auxiliary through her husband Dennis Mooney who served in the US Army in Vietnam and her father Donald Schiebrel who served in the US Army during Korea.

Marsha has served her Unit as President four years, Secretary four years and Historian three years.

She has been Chairman of National Security, VA & R, Girls State, Past Presidents Parley and served on many other committees.

On the District level Marsha has served two years as Vice-President and Membership Chairman and two years as 5<sup>th</sup> District President. She participates in the Christmas Gift Shop at the VA.

At the Department Level Marsha has served as Department Chaplain, two years on the Courtesy Rules and Resolution Committee, two years as Northwest Division Membership Chairman, Department of Missouri Membership Co-Chair for one year, Department Sergeant-at-Arms and Legislative Chairman.

Marsha has attended all Department Conventions and Conferences and traveled to many of the Christmas Gift Shops throughout the state. She has also attended three National Conventions two as a delegate and one as an alternate.

Marsha is also a Charter member of Chapter 21, American Legion Riders serving six years as Secretary and membership chair. Marsha attends Veteran's funerals, Welcome Homes, Honor Flight Welcomes and many other missions representing the Auxiliary through her membership in the Legion Riders.

In view of her hard work and dedication to the District 5, Department of Missouri, American Legion Auxiliary proudly endorses Marsha Mooney as a candidate for the office of Historian for the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Missouri 2017-2018.

Doris Lisenby Cecilia Eli  
Secretary, District 5 President, District 5  
*Doris Lisenby* *Cecilia Eli*

June the money will go to Military Mama Network for active military.

Our September meeting was preceded by a 9/11 Memorial Service on the steps of the Civic Auditorium in Neosho. Dawn Hewlan with Trinity Circle Horses Healing Hearts arrived with 22 horses to symbolize the 22 veterans who commit suicide daily. It was an Awareness Ride to bring attention to that fact and remember the people left behind who need our love and support. There was a large wagonload of people with a police escort and arrival of several city and county law enforcement officers, firefighters and EMS personnel. The public was present to honor veterans, military, law enforcement, emergency medical services and firefighters. Families of veterans who have committed suicide were recognized and honored.

A POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony was presented at the December meeting. Too many families are still praying and waiting for resolution. We must never forget

Sharon Slagle and Sheridan Mires visited us in March. After the meeting the American Legion helped make our White Elephant Sale a big success. We had a lot of fun and laughs, especially when a loaf of homemade bread sold for \$27.

Several units made veterans happy at Mt. Vernon Veterans Home at the Christmas Gift Shop. I had the distinct pleasure of working with ALA representative Marie Jones at Fayetteville VAMC's Christmas Shop. Three units sponsored the Americanism essay Contest and three units sponsored the Poppy Poster Contest. Thirty girls are going to Girls State.

Since nothing can be done without members, a big shout goes to District 15! From our 17 units, 5 are 100% or more, 5 have % in the 90's and 4 have % in the 80's. God bless America and the ALA!

## Washington, D.C., Conference

Gayle Metzinger, NEC

The American Legion Auxiliary's 2017 Washington, D.C., Conference was held February 25 - March 1 at the Washington Hilton Hotel. The weather was perfect and so warm that the cherry blossoms emerged early! What a beautiful sight!

2016 Updates: American Legion Auxiliary National Constitution, Bylaws and Standing rules include:

- A Department Leadership National Conference shall be held annually. Necessary expenses incurred for attendance may be paid from the national treasury when authorized by the national budget or authorized by the National President and confirmed by the National Executive Committee.

- The National organization may present other national trainings, meetings, or conferences for specified department leaders from time to time such as the Department Secretary Organizational Effectiveness Training. Necessary expenses will be paid and authorized by the national budget or authorized by the National President and confirmed by the National Executive Committee.

- When a national training, meeting, or conference for specific department leaders is presented, and expenses for attendance are paid by the National organization, the specific department leaders for

whom the training, meeting, or conference is prepared and presented are expected to attend, absent a valid excuse presented to and accepted by the National President or National Secretary.

- Failure to attend as expected if registered shall result in the National Headquarters invoicing the Department for said expense.

**Membership transfer:** A member who is not subject to suspension or membership revocation under due process is eligible to transfer her membership to another unit if she has paid her membership dues to her current unit for either the current year or immediate past membership year. A member transferring to a new unit must pay current year dues to either her current unit or to the unit into which she wishes to transfer. Evidence of paid membership includes:

- American Legion Auxiliary Membership Card;
- Verification of membership by ALA Department or National Headquarters membership records;
- Other documentation verifying payment of current or immediate past year membership dues such as a canceled check or receipt; or
- When verifying documentation is not available, a sworn statement that the member's membership dues payment was tendered.

The Sunday session met for two hours and then it was time to load buses to go to the Vietnam Veteran's memorial. "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans" was the theme of the celebration. So many names, so many lives lost in the war (conflict) of my generation. I remember how we would watch the TV to see where those we loved placed on the birthday lottery. Our entire future depended on that draw. Low numbers were faced with a major life changing event — get married, enroll in college, enlist in a branch of service other than the Army or accepting a new job. Auxiliary members were given a red pull-over jacket to wear and we looked very chic.

Monday, February 27 began with the joint General Session. Many guest speakers were well received. The Public Spirit Award Luncheon was also held this day. Each year at its Washington, D.C., Conference, the American Legion Auxiliary presents the Public Spirit Award, which recognizes outstanding organizations and/or individuals for contributions that positively impact our communities through service to our military, veterans and their families. The Auxiliary celebrates those who make a difference through a creative body of works or even a single generous act. The 2016 Public Spirit Award is to the Bob Woodruff Foundation.

The Bob Woodruff Foundation was founded in 2006 after ABC "World News Tonight" reporter Bob Woodruff was hit by a roadside bomb while covering the war in Iraq. Since then, the Bob Woodruff Foundation has led an enduring call to action for people to stand up for heroes and meet the emerging and long-term needs of today's veterans. To date, the Bob Woodruff Foundation has invested more than \$35 million to find, fund, and shape programs that have empowered more than 2.5 million impacted veterans, service members and their families.

Senator John McCain was the feature speaker at the Commander's Call & Know Before You Go session. The delegation from Missouri were able to meet our two senators, Claire McCaskill and Roy Blunt. Both senators listened to our concerns and were receptive to the suggestions. It was disappointing not to be able to listen to the National Commander testimony before Congress as it was now a ticketed event.

All in all, it was a good conference and I learned much. Washington, D.C., is a fantastic city to visit and explore.



NEC Gayle Metzinger presented National President Mary Davis with a check from the Department of Missouri.



## AROUND THE STATE



Members of Unit #253 in Festus attended the Spring Conference. They raffled six military baskets as a fundraiser. The branches of service represented were Air force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines and Navy, plus POW-MIA. These baskets included donations from each branch recruiting office, local businesses and individuals. Some of the items put into the baskets were challenge coins and holders, service flags, auto license plate frames, tote bags, water bottles, coffee mugs, beverage cups, beverage can holders, T-shirts, service caps, ID lanyards, sock caps and other miscellaneous items. Members who attended the conference and helped with the baskets were Unit President Wanda Kinder, 1st Vice President Shirley Arnold, 2nd Vice President Joan Kreilick, Treasurer Sherill Compton, VA & R Chair Diane McCart and member Sandra DeClue.

## Which Are You?

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seems as soon as one problem was solved, a new one arose.

Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to boil. In the first she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs, and in the last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil without saying a word.

In about 20 minutes she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee and placed it in a bowl. Turning to her daughter, she asked, "Tell me what you see." "Carrots, eggs and coffee," she replied.

Her mother brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. The mother then asked the daughter to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally the mother asked the daughter to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled as she tasted its rich aroma. The daughter then asked, "What does it mean, mother?"

Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity, boiling water. Each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water.

"Which are you?" she asked her daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, egg or coffee bean?"

Think of this: Which am I? Am I the carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength? Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff? Does my shell look the same, but on the inside am I bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and hardened heart?

Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavor. If you are like the bean when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you. When the hour is the darkest and trials are their greatest, do you elevate yourself to another level? How do you handle adversity?

Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?

(Unknown)

## RECIPE for LEADERSHIP

It is important that leaders pause periodically to reflect upon their past efforts and to consider ways of improving their skills for future problems. There are some basic ingredients that when blended in proper proportions, will result in effective leadership.

**L...**Listen to views, ideas, suggestions and problems of others. Listen and "hear" what is said.

**E...**Examine the issue or programs and contact resources for depth of knowledge and to gain insight into those concerns and issues.

**A...**Analyze the possible alternative strategies and solutions. There may be more than one way to deal with a problem.

**D...**Discuss those ideas with the persons who will be affected. Involve them in the decision-making process.

**E...**Evaluate the feedback, then formulate a proposal for action.

**R...**Recommend a plan to your committee or members.

**S...**Select materials, ideas and strategies which may be needed to make the new plan a reality.

**H...**Hail (acclaim) the decision. Give credit to those who assisted you and fully communicate the plan to all others concerned.

**I...**Implement the decision with careful preparation of all details and provide explanation as needed.

**P...**Plan to evaluate, modify and/or refine the new action as needed, using the same process of L-E-A-D-E-R-S-H-I-P

(Alfrieda M. Frost)

## THE VALUE OF A MEMBER

Ten little members standing in a line,

One disliked the president, and then there were nine.

Nine ambitious members offered to work late.

One forgot her promise, and then there were eight.

Eight creative members had ideas as good as heaven,

One lost enthusiasm, and then there were seven.

Seven loyal members got into a fix, They quarreled over programs, then there were six.

Six members remained with spirit and drive,

One moved away, and then there were five.

Five steadfast members wished there were more.

One became indifferent, then there were four.

Four cheerful members who never disagreed,

'Til one complained of meetings, and then there were three.

Three eager members! What do they do?

One got discouraged, and then there were two.

Two lovely members; our rhyme is nearly done,

One joined a bridge club, and then there was one.

One faithful member was feeling rather blue,

Met with a neighbor, and then there were two.

Two earnest members, each enrolled one more,

Doubling their number, and there were four.

Four determined members just could not wait,

'Til each won another, then there were eight.

Eight excited members signed up sixteen more.

In another six verses, there will be a thousand and twenty-four!

**REMEMBER: Membership is Everyone's Responsibility!**

(Author Unknown)

## My List

I have a list of folks I know...all written in a book and every now and then...I go and take a look.

That is when I realize these names...they are a part, not of the book, they're written in...but taken from the heart.

For each name stands for someone...who has crossed my path sometime, and in that meeting they have become...the reason and they rhyme.

Although it sounds fantastic...for me to make this claim, I really am composed...of each remembered name.

Although you're not aware...of any special link, just knowing you, has shaped my life...more than you could think.

So please don't think my greeting...as just a mere routine, your name was not...forgotten in between.

For when I send a greeting...that is addressed to you, it is because you're on the list...of folks I'm indebted to.

So whether I have known you...for many days or few, in some ways you have a part...in shaping things I do.

I am but a total...of many folks I've met, you are a friend I would prefer...never to forget.

Thank you for being my friend!

(Unknown)

...When you were born, you were crying and everyone around you was smiling. Live your life so at the end, you're the one who is smiling and everyone around you is crying.

...If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it.

...They say it takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them, but an entire life to forget them.

## A Shopping List For Moderns

I must go shopping today!

I am completely out of generosity and must get some more. I also want to exchange the self-satisfaction I picked up the other day for some real humility. They say it wears better.

I must look at some tolerance that is worn as a wrap this season. I saw samples of kindness... I'm a little low on that and one can never have too much of it.

I must try to match some patience. I saw it on a friend. It was so becoming and might look equally well on me. I must remember to get my sense of humor mended, and keep my eyes open for some inexpensive

goodness.

It is surprising how one's stock of goods is depleted. Yes, I must go shopping today.

(Unknown)

## Thank You

A sincere thank you to all the friends who called or emailed me checking if I was OK after the devastating tornado that hit Perryville on February 28. Yes, I was fine. The destruction was mainly outside the city limits; however, it was near me. I know many of the families who were affected by the storm. Thank you for your concern.

Virginia Schnurbusch, Editor

## Due Date for MAY-JUNE LEGIONETTE

The material for the May/June issue of THE MISSOURI LEGIONETTE will be due no later than May 20. PLEASE be on time. This issue will include the Department Convention program.

District Presidents, have you sent your report during the year? Chairman, if you still have more information about your program, please share it with the members by submitting an article. It is never too late to learn.

Please type double - spaced.

Thank you!!!

Virginia Schnurbusch

## Deceased Members

DECEMBER 2016 - FEBRUARY 2017

District	Unit	Name	Location
1	360	Roma Abeln	New Cambria, MO
1	578	Paula E. Wallace	Ewing, MO
3	58	Sandra Thompson	Kansas City, MO
4	11	Jane Myers	Saint Joseph, MO
4	359	Joyce E. Bundy	Saint Joseph, MO
5	71	Alice Messmer	Olathe, KS
7	217	Bonnie Smith	Wasilla, AK
7	217	Ruth A. Howell	Lees Summit, MO
7	286	Betty S. Heidbrink	Odessa, MO
7	623	Carolyn S. Wright	Cross Timbers, MO
8	5	Eula V. Schepers	Jefferson City, MO
8	105	Mary E. Hammack	Iberia, MO
8	202	Laurie Fuemmeler	Mexico, MO
8	343	Sylvia M. Taylor	Stover, MO
9	312	Wilma I. Prouhet	Saint Peters, MO
9	312	Clara L. Sander	Saint Charles, MO
9	313	Anna M. Lott	Saint Peters, MO
10	208	Alice Williams	Joplin, MO
10	208	Betty Mertz	Ellisville, MO
10	397	Margaret J. Martinez	Saint Louis, MO
10	400	Janet DeClue	House Springs, MO
11	186	Catherine M. Staten	Saint Louis, MO
11	196	Geraldene C. Moore	Saint Louis, MO
13	150	Nelda D. Oberle	Ste Genevieve, MO
13	150	Pamela G. Ernst	Ste. Genevieve, MO
13	253	Priscilla Cook	Festus, MO
14	158	Phyllis Brunke	Jackson, MO
15	118	Ruth A. Callahan	Cassville, MO
16	240	Pamela A. Eaken	Richland, MO
16	331	Rose M. Wheeler	Saint Robert, MO

## Calendar of Activities

May 8	Truman Day; Independence, MO
June 25-July 1	Girls State; Warrensburg, MO
July 13-16	Department Convention; Capitol Plaza Hotel; Jefferson City, MO 573-635-1234
October 20-22	Fall Conference; Capitol Plaza Hotel; Jefferson City, MO
August 25-31	National Convention; Reno, NV

## District Meetings

District 3	April 9; Liberty Post #95 at Our Lady of Carmel Home; 2:00 p.m. meal after meeting.
District 4	June 3; Parnell Post #528
District 5	April 19; Hostess Unit #149; DAV Bldg, KC May 17; Hostess Unit #21; Honor Department President Cathie
District 7	June 11; Sedalia Post #642; 2:00 p.m.
District 8	June 4; Sunrise Beach Post #624; Memorial Service 11:00 a.m.
District 9	June 4; St. Charles Post #312; reg. 9:00 a.m.; meeting 9:30 a.m.; Lunch noon; joint session after lunch.
District 10	June 8, Post #101; meeting 7:30 p.m.
District 11/12	May 6; 10:30 a.m.; Hoffmeister Colonial Mortuary, 6464 Chippewa St., St. Louis
District 13	June 4; Festus Post #253; 2:00 p.m.
District 14	May 21; Sikeston Post #114; 2:00 p.m.
District 15	June 12; Mt. Vernon Post #137; 2:00 p.m.