



American Legion Auxiliary
2009-2010 Dept President
Patricia Moore



“Beautiful
Things
Happens
To those who
Believe”



National Guest At Mid-Winter Conference



Thank you to West Virginia for the wonderful visit to you beautiful state. The snow was beautiful and yes we all had challenges - but all handled the challenges very well. I made it to Indy and the storm was here too!

West Virginia — you did a great job hosting the Mid-Winter Conference and you kept spirits up in handling the changes due to weather. This is what the Auxiliary Family is all about. Meeting the challenges that lay ahead of us.

I enjoyed my visit with you even though the stay got extended to the whole weekend. I was given the opportunity to visit with more members and enjoy visiting with National Commander Clarence. Our paths don't always cross in our year of travels. I enjoyed your program, your warm hospitality and was impressed with your new State Web-Site. Members you are doing a great job and I know the Units are working very hard in their communities. Keep up the good work!

Mid - Winter what can I say. Our National President Rita was a very gracious Lady. One that I myself will never forget in my life time. It was just great that West Virginia had a visit from National President, we don't always receive one because there is other states that want her to at same time. So I feel very fortune.

The meetings and Auxiliary members to were great. Members that I talked to enjoyed the meetings so take your knowledge back to your units. Paulette did a very outstanding job as Leadership Chairman. **Thank You Paulette** But for the electric pole and electric outage that was a act of God. Some things that we can't control but there still over 2000 people without electric as of 2-11-10 in Monongalia County. The snow is still coming down and more to come. Where is the sun and Spring?— we have had enough SNOW. There was a lot of our Legion Family members canceled due to the weather. You were all missed.

I would like to thank each and everyone that donated to the Comfort Drive. For all that was donated — this will benefit the Veterans in the Hospitals and Nursing homes which is in need of all that we can do for our veterans that has give us freedom in America. Thanks to Mary Waybright and Mindy McCoy and anyone else that worked the Drive. Also to the ones that worked so hard to get the Items loaded in to their cars to take to the VA Hospitals. **Thanks !!**

To the ones that donated to the silent auction thank you also. I know the Items were down so wasn't our delegation therefore our other projects were down. but we have to take the good with the bad. I am Thankful for what we got. Thanks Judy Kesner for working the Silent Auction and if anyone else thank you.

Lisa, Thanks for the poppy corsage contest project and those who worked it. West Virginia members are very dedicated to our programs. Thanks to everyone.

Spring Conferences and Birthdays are on the way. I promise I will attend all that I will be able to get to with out getting snowed in. If I don't get to yours please forgive me. I am hoping that Districts are planning for a great conference. Memorial Services Elections of Districts Officers, Unit President reports. Remember we are Legion Family so Post, Auxiliary, Squadrons, please work together for the betterment of our Veterans.

Please remember my Special Project for the CMN. The Children need our help there are different kinds of ways to make money for this program. The money will be presented at Department Convention to their represent.

I will be going to the Awareness Assembly in DC. The last of February and the 1st and 2nd of March along with 1st. Vice President Sharon and 2nd. Vice President Dortha and Lynda Landcaster and also the Legion, SAL. So until next Month keep those Hearts Beating, and The Stars Shinning for Membership. **Auxiliary Emergency Fund** and **Community Service** are your programs for March.



God not only sends special angels into our lives, but sometimes He even sends them back again if we forget to take notes the first time!

Department Headquarters — “the Garden Center”

Mandatory Funds Make sure your Unit sends in by deadline of June 9, 2010 in order to be seated at State Convention.

Poppy Orders Make sure you have your poppies in time for your Poppy Day set up. Use your poppies all year round and the big thing with this program is setting up POPPY DAY for distributing in community for **a donation** not for selling!!!!

2010 Spring Conferences: (Information also listed on State Web Site at www.aux.org :

1st Dist — April 25 — Chester #121

Reg. 9-10 Cost \$10.00

3rd Dist — March 1 — Clarksburg #13(JT)

Reg. 9-10 Cost \$8.50

4th Dist— April 11- New Haven #140 (JT)

Reg. 9—10 Cost \$12.00

5th Dist-March 28- Barboursville #177 (JT)

Reg. 9-10 Cost \$10.00

6th Dist- April 10- Bluefield #9

Reg. 10 -11 Cost \$8.00

8th Dist—April 17—St Albans #73

Reg. 9 -10 Cost \$6.00

9th Dist— April 24—Lewisburg #69 (JT)

Reg. 10-11 Cost \$10.00

10th Dist—Feb 27 — Martinsburg 14 (JT)

Reg. 8-9 Cost \$10.00

STATE WEB SITE: Is being updated and there is much information on this site just at your fingertips 24 hours a day. 3rd Quarterly Mailing that just went out to all Units had an Index for the site. It is a map of what is available for you at this site and may save you time looking everywhere for something you need. The Girls State Tab at top of Home Page is being set up right now. Hopefully this will be complete by 1st of February. This site will have orientation information and good information for any student to obtain anytime. This will be good for those last minute students that doesn't receive their packet in time or unfortunately those that receive NO orientation. PLEASE make use of this site. If you have any problems with the site —let this office know so I can correct/ edit/add etc. or it may even be something that Jacob our webmaster has to do for us. He is working on some things for me right now. I want this sight to be as simple and user friendly as can be. Hopefully the “Index” will be of help for you. You may find some things listed that are not on the site yet but will be very soon

2011 DUES — I have mailing to all Unit Contacts the UNIT DATA FORM for information

on the 2011 dues notices. A copy of form was also in the 3rd Quarterly Mailing that was just mailed to all units in case your Unit did not receive a copy or it was misplaced. **I will need this information by 1st of March** so your UNIT will need to act on this in February at your Unit meetings. Some Units may make NO changes and other may have to increase their dues. I NEED THIS FORM RETURNED EVEN IF IT IS SAME AS LAST YEAR. I KEEP THIS FORM FOR USE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. Keep your Unit files up to date here in office.

2011 dues to Department will be: \$10.00 for Seniors and \$2.50 for Juniors. You may have to adjust your dues accordingly.

Thank you — to ones that returned the Junior list with dates of birth. I have them all posted. I hope all are working hard on this so our Junior listings can be updated to their correct status— this can only be done by DATES OF BIRTH. This is needed for the new membership system that will be activated in May 2010. Thank you .

990 e—Postcard (990N) must be filed by all Units. It is on internet and very easy to do. On web site there is filing instructions and is also available from this office upon request at 1-888-604-2242. This MUST be done each year and this is the last year that IRS is giving everyone time to get on line with this if you have not done so already.

REMEMBER make sure you have recorded in your Unit file your Unit Login ID# and Login Password. You will need this information each year to get into the system for your Unit. If the person that does this next year changes — the new one will need to know this information. You may want to add a Standing Rule to your Unit Standing Rules to routinely file this 990N each year in what ever month you do it (like October, November, etc.) This is so if officers change they know that this MUST BE DONE— PER IRS RULES!!!!

IRS is cracking down on Non-Profit Organizations and the 990N (e-Postcard) or the 990 must be filed each year. There will be fine to all units that don't comply each year. If IRS comes into your Post to audit—they will also do a Unit audit. ALL UNITS MUST KEEP the following:

Treasurer — ledger, checkbook, bank statements, receipts for bills paid.

Secretary — minutes showing that bills were voted on, money spent was voted on, finance reports were given at each meeting.

Not Hard to do for each officer and if all is done in orderly manner — you have no worry.

“Mail Call” — has been off schedule in past few months but I will have it back on schedule after 1st of February. For new members— this is updates e-mailed to all that this office has e-mail addresses for. I do this mailing every two weeks but sometimes things come in sooner than that — I do “Mail Call” for these things

that throw me off schedule. The problem I have with these mailings mainly is I get a few returned due to “Mail Box Is Full”. Please keep your mail box emptied on a timely manner. If I keep getting things back due to this reason — your address may be removed from the “Mail Call” listing.

THANK YOU — I want to thank everyone for their input on the various items on State Web Site. Your input has helped a lot. National is even sending out surveys to Dept Headquarters to help them out with things they have coming down the pike. Your input is important.

The American Legion AUXILIARY The National Magazine has a different look. This is due to the STRONG wishes of the National Delegates in Louisville, KY. It now reflects our Auxiliary image at a glance. Many are very pleased with the change.



Department Endorsements

2010-2011 year

Received in Office to date

Dept President — Sharon Glassford, #71
Dept 1st V-Pres — Dortha Parsons, #13
Dept 2nd V-Pres — Lisa Cadwallader, #71
Dept Sec/Treas — Mary Rose Yoho, #28

1st District Pres — Susan Wade, #86
3rd District Pres — Carla Wilfong, #31
10th Dist V-Pre — Michelle Hart, #71

DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

Office Hours: Monday -Friday
9:00 - 2:00

Answering Machine and Fax -
24 hours

Office (304) 455-3449

FAX (304) 455-5825

Toll Free (888) 604-2242

Auxiliary E-mail:

mryoho@rcvideo.com

Legion E-mail

wwlegion@suddenlinkmail.com

State Web Site: wvaux.org
National Web Site: legion-aux.org

Articles for the SPIRIT must be received in Dept. Headquarters by

15th of each month

2010 Membership— “Reaching for the “Stars” Using our “Hearts” to stay on “Track”



2009-2010 Department Target Dates		
Target #1	40%	August 15th
Target #2	50%	September 15th
Target #3	60%	October 15th
Target #4	70%	November 15th
Target #5	75%	December 15th
Target #6	80%	January 15th
Target #7	85%	February 15th
Target #8	87%	March 15th
Target #9	90%	April 15th
Target #10	95%	May 15th
Target #11	100%	June 15th
Target #12	101%	July 15th

STARS

Hi Ladies:

Hope everybody is doing okay with all the snow. We really had a great Mid-Winter Conference! Thank you Paulette for your Leadership Program and Ann for your Membership programs and the great 90th Birthday Party. We all had to adjust without electric and yes No Heat. Everybody did make it though even if we could put on makeup or do hair.



Membership Chairman Ann had your Membership Certificates ready to hand out. So I presented several there and one goal ribbon. I will be giving out the following Certificates at Spring Conference: Parkersburg #15, Parkersburg 104, Ripley #107, New Haven #140, Williamston #159, Spencer #21,

Bluefield #9, Gary #38, Beckley #70, Fayetteville #149, I know we can have more to give out. I am ready to present Goal Ribbons, so let that come true also. Jan. 30, we were at 82.24% and the Hearts were 76.97%. We still need to continue the great work that you are doing to keep our % growing.



Members, Members, Members – we need MEMBERS. I want to congratulate those units that meet the February 15 Goal of 85%. We are now entering the toughest part of the Membership Year. I know that a lot of units have worked really hard this year, but we all have to keep up the work to bring the year in successfully. We need to look for new members in all aspects of our daily lives. (ballgames, grocery store, ALA projects, church). Show your colors when possible – people will ask question which gives you an opening to share information. Don't forget to contact those members that have not renewed. If you are unsuccessful in getting them to renew, find out why. Be prepared to tell what we have to offer and how we help our veterans and our community.

We had a great Birthday Party at the Midwinter Luncheon for the 90th Birthday of the American Legion Auxiliary. I hope that each unit and district is planning on a celebration this spring. Please keep me informed about your events. I want to recognize each unit and district that has a celebration at Department Convention.

A round of applause for the following unit that met the February **Target of 85%:**

District 1 – Cameron 18, New Martinsville 28, Wellsburg 34, Pine Grove 81, Wheeling 89, Chester 121

District 3 – Buckhannon 7, Clarksburg 13, Mannington 40, Philippi 44, Bridgeport 68, Jane Lew 166

District 4 – Sistersville 67, New Haven 140, Williamstown 159

District 5 – Milton 139

District 6 – Gary 38

District 8 – Charleston 20, St. Albans 73, South Charleston 94

District 9 – Cowen 62, Lewisburg 69, Belington 96, Richwood 97, Pickens 122

District 10 – Franklin 30, Piedmont 52, Charles Town 71, Charles Town 102, Kirby 134, Ridgeley 136, Keyser 152, Riverton 183

GOAL UNITS to date: Charleston 20, Franklin 30, Gary 38, Piedmont 52, Cowen 62, Sistersville 67, St. Albans 73, Belington 96, Richwood 97, Charles Town 102, Kirby 134, Keyser 152, Jane Lew 166

Highest % - STAR Unit – Sistersville 67 with 112.31%

District – District 9 with 90.42%

HEART Unit – Piedmont 52 with 117.39%

District – District 8 with 97.05%

The STARS are leading with 83.91% to the HEARTS 79.08%

Keep up the good work – we need your help NOW.

Reaching for the STARS using our HEARTS to stay on TRACK with Membership



Ann Buchanan,
Membership Chairman.



Thank you so much stars for the great job. Wear your pin proudly and let everybody see you are American Legion Auxiliary member.

God Bless America
Sharon Glassford
Dept. 1st Vice President



Hearts

Hello you beautiful ladies with those big hearts.

Mid Winter Conference is over and what a weekend. The snow and then no lights but we survived. I hope everyone got home ok! Myself, I waited till Monday and the roads were clear.

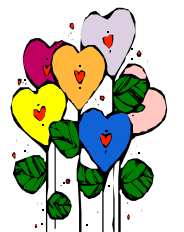
We want to Thank Rita Navarrete, our National President for attending our Conference. Everyone enjoyed her visit.

We have eight Units Goal and District Eight— you are close to reaching Goal only “7” members short!. Hope you can get the members in so you can reach Goal soon.

Some need one member and some need two; while others need a few more to reach Goal. Ladies keep reaching out and get those members for our great Auxiliary. I'm sorry to say the STARS are still ahead of us HEARTS.

Until next time sending my Love

Dortha Parsons
Department 2nd Vice President



AMERICANISM

I'm writing this on Presidents Birthdays! We need to increase awareness of flag protocol. Have you noticed your neighbors flying their American Flag? Maybe we can honor the family or company by flying their Flag. Present them with a certificate. If there is a Flag out there that needs to be replaced; the Auxiliary can approach them and replace the worn Flag. The adults in our organizations enjoy seeing the Flag Flowing Program .

Dortha Parsons
Department Americanism Chairman

POPPY

As you may have heard while reading the articles in this Sprit, the weather for Mid-Winter was horrible, and some of us were stuck an extra day. We lost power early Saturday morning and all the meetings were moved to different locations, rooms with windows so we could see. This moved us further away from the corsages and auction items. We also had a number of cancellations with the bad weather they were calling for. So we did not do as well as I had hoped.

We did have 10 beautiful corsages. I'm sorry to say they only brought in \$86.42. The winners are: the two from highest dollar amounts are Shinnston, Unit 31 with \$55 and Benwood, Unit 46 with \$10. The Legionnaire pick came from Moundsville, Unit 3 (Selena Strughn), the S.A.L. pick also from Moundsville, Unit 3(Sandy Rogerson) and the National Presidents pick was the Juniors from Moundsville, Unit 3. Four of these will go on to the awarness assembly, one was returned, since it was a little too large for a 4 x 4 corsage box. This requirement is set by National. All other corsages were returned, except for one that was not picked up and I will return it during the 5th District Conference.

We had 4 very nice poppy special project items; a handmade basket, a photo clip, a small trinket box and a small wreath. The basket made \$5 and was worth much more then that. Again, I think just not being in the center of all the meetings and movement of everyone, we lost out and I am sorry, these were very nice items. The other 3 items were returned to the person who brought them in. We also received a \$50 donation from Ceredo-Kenova, Unit 93.

I want to thank everyone who brought items in, those that voted and those that donated. I also want to thank Beth Wolfe for manning the poppy corsage and special project table. I would also like to extend the thanks to the other ladies who sat with her or filled in for her, Carol Davis, Sandy Graham and I'm sorry I do not know the other lady's name.

Don't forget to include these on your unit end of year reports. Also, let's not forget we are going to try a poppy scrap book this year, so take lots of pictures. With Spring Conferences and Legion birthday dinners around the corner, I'm sure you will be using poppies in some form.

Stay Warm!
Lisa Cadwallader
42 Trout Circle, Kearneysville, W.V. 25430
(304) 725-1170 CADWALL1@Westat.com

Chaplain Corner



*Whatever your cross, whatever your pain,
There will always be sunshine, after the rain...
Perhaps you may stumble, perhaps even fall;
But God's always ready, to answer your call....
He knows every heartache, sees every tear,
A word from His lips, can calm every fear...
Your sorrows may linger, throughout the night,
But suddenly vanish, by dawn's early light...
The Savior is waiting, somewhere above,
To give you His grace, and send you His love.*

Author Unknown

Submitted by: Diane McClung

Hello Ladies,

I don't know about you but I have had enough snow for the next few years!! Boy what a Mid-Winter conference we had with the bad weather, no electricity, the pole and live wire that fall across the entrance road, I would guess this one will go down in history. However, those that made it should have had an enjoyable Mid-Winter conference. Paulette put together a really nice program.

I want to thank Beth Kilgore, Michelle Hart, Ida Polsinelli, and Kathy Hogen for helping with the Four Chaplains Service. You did a very nice job. I received many complements. Even the batteries in my CD player held up for a different version of amazing grace. I also want to thank everyone for the generous donations for the four chaplain's chapel, we collected \$110. I was asked by some for copies of the service. I will make some copies to take to district conferences with me. I will also put together a document and see if Mary Rose can post it on the state website wvaux.org.

If you missed the chapel service during Mid-Winter, you missed a very nice sermon "Life Rocks" that Chaplain Fred Buchanan had put together. It was very interesting and I enjoyed participating in the service.

I am still in need of prayers, inspirational poems, and hymns for the department prayer book.

District Chaplains and Presidents, please be sure you send me a copy of your memorial service program from your district conference for the prayer book. Also, I can use it to start putting together my program listing all the names of our deceased members.

Please keep our service personal, veterans and children in your prayers.

God Bless
Lisa Cadwallader
42 Trout Circle, Kearneysville, W.V. 25430
(304) 725-1170 CADWALL1@Westat.com

Community Service

Hi ladies:

I hope everybody is hoping for warm weather?

I hope you are doing a lot for your communities, which I know you have been and will still be doing. You are so successful in all that you do. Many people can follow your lead, when they hear the reports that you will be sending me for my end of the year report. Always remember without your help the projects that you do for the community may stall.. So remember you are a VIP. Keep up the good work.

Please thank the Veterans.
Sharon Glassford
Dept. Community Service, Chairman

Public Relations

What a memorable Mid-Winter conference! We were honored to have our National President Rita Navarreté with us and a longer stay than was planned.

She emphasized it is up to us to inform the public of what we are doing in our communities and for our veterans. We have to inform the press in advance of an event! We have many forms of media today, with radio, television, upcoming events on cable channels, newspapers and the internet. But, it is up to us! No one will do public relations for us.

I did receive a few articles while at Mid-Winter for Department President Patty's press book. Thank you! I am in need of your articles that are published in your local papers with the name of the paper, the date it was published and the page number it appeared on. You can mail them to me at 103 East Tenth Avenue, Ranson, WV 25483.

Lynda Lancaster, Chairman
Department Public Relations



Auxiliary Emergency Fund

Women helping Women is a fundamental principle of the American Legion Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Has your Unit sent in a donation this year to this very worthwhile fund?

When unforeseen crises suddenly arise and alter the lives of our Auxiliary members, a friend can mean all of the difference. You can assist a member of your Unit in these times and help her send in an application for financial aid. This fund also offers assistance for food or shelter during weather-related emergencies and natural disasters. It provides educational training for members who have become the main support for their families.

Thank you so much to those Units which have sent in their donations. Feel proud that you are helping someone in need. Emergencies can strike anyone at any time. Remember that the American Legion Auxiliary cannot help needy members unless contributions are made to this fund. I'm counting on all of you to help!

Mary Bess
AEF Chairman



Thank You

Thank you all for the cards, e-mail, and phone calls when I was sick. They helped a lot, I am doing very well and back to work already.

Thank you again
Sharon Glassford

Thank you for the lovely card that everyone signed at Mid-Winter Conference. It was a joy for me to read all the names and kind words. I really appreciated it even more at this time with the long stretch of winter weather—I have been shut in and this all put a smile on my face.

Thanks again
Marlene Bonar, PDP

Washington-Smith Unit #152 ALA asks prayers for the families of two of our members: Jessie C. Johnson lost her battle with cancer Monday morning and Bessie Brooks, Past Department 2nd Vice, died last evening after a short illness.

Miss Bessie's husband, Clifton "Gene" Brooks, who has served the Department and 10th District would appreciate cards: P. O. Box 293; Keyser, WV 26726

Thank you
Kim Rolls, Unit President

Leadership

What a Mid Winter Conference never to forget!! Snow, snow, and more snow. Roughly about 26 inches from Friday to Sunday morning. Digging our cars out, a utility pole down in the main road to the hotel on Saturday morning. The only way out was through the golf course, and only 4 wheel drives to make that.

A challenge was no electric on Sat. for about 4 hours. This pushed our conference 1 1/2 hours late, moved us to a room where there were windows to give us light. But the Auxiliary family came together and we finally got our conference going. Then later electric only in half of the hotel, due to the utility pole down. Of course where the electric was off was in the area where we met. But we kept on plugging, luncheon was held in the same room. Thanks Ann for having the Birthday party! Session still went through without a hitch!! We got to spend more time with our National President Rita, as she was snowed in also.

Yes, a Mid Winter Conference never to forget! Thanks to all who made the trip, and especially thanks to all who participated in our skits. Everyone kept a smile on their faces through all this (at least until after the sessions)!!

Even though our number was small in attendance, everyone had a good time, even with all we endured! This is truly an American Legion family!!

Paulette Anderson
Department Leadership Chairman

Ways and Means

Bob West	624	Wheeling	WV	1/01/2010	\$100.00
	056			1/02/2010	
Sue Briggs	975	Cameron	WV	1/04/2010	\$25.00
Sally Kuykendall	882	Romney	WV	1/05/2010	\$25.00
Mildred Barber	385	Gary	WV	1/06/2010	\$25.00
Calvin Florence	463	Parkersburg	WV	1/07/2010	\$25.00
	024			1/08/2010	
Christopher Swiger	131	Hedgesville	WV	1/09/2010	\$25.00
Pat Willey	525	Parkersburg	WV	1/11/2010	\$25.00
	597			1/12/2010	
Karen Clift	254	Moundsville	WV	1/13/2010	\$25.00
	231			1/14/2010	
	273			1/15/2010	
	805			1/16/2010	
Nancy Sweeney	904	Thurmont	MD	1/18/2010	\$25.00
Vickey Wade	396	Cameron	WV	1/19/2010	\$25.00
Charles Cadwallader	429	Kearneysville	WV	1/21/2010	\$200.00
Kenya Scott	248	Cross Junction	VA	1/22/2010	\$25.00
L Dow Phillips III	651	Beckley	WV	1/23/2010	\$25.00
Teresa Rush	078	Glen Easton	WV	1/25/2010	\$25.00
	879			1/26/2010	
	959			1/27/2010	
	634			1/28/2010	
Gary Wolfe	046	McMechen	WV	1/29/2010	\$25.00
	528				

This is only Fundraiser Department has to help with Budget & Programs. Each Ticket is good for everyday of the 2010 year (1/1 to 12/31). We ask each Unit to please support this program. They make wonderful gifts. Cost is \$20.00 per ticket.



Tickets for "2010" Year are available. PLEASE let me know if you need some. There are still extras for anyone to buy. PLEASE if anyone wants some to sell let me know. Once you sell your tickets return all stubs with money to me. If you have tickets not able to sell also please return those tickets. There is always someone wanting more tickets. Remember they make wonderful gifts. Good all year long. You have a chance of winning multiple times.

"Thanks for your Continued Support"
Beth Wolfe ,Ways & Means Chairman
109 Logan Street, McMechen WV 26040
233-3338
(E) bethwolfe45@comcast.net

State Bowling Tournament

Bowing News:

Due to low numbers of teams we made changes.

Some of the Auxiliary members were asking if they could bowl in the American Legion Bowling Tournament. Some teams were having a hard time finding five bowlers and some teams wanted to use friends of veterans. Both requests have been answered. (Yes to both)

We have made the American Legion State of West Virginia Bowling Tournament a family affair. Before you had to be a Legionnaire or SAL and now we have included the ladies of the Auxiliary of West Virginia and friends of veterans.

Each team must have at least three members of the Legion, Sons of the Legion or the Auxiliary to bowl. It can be one Legionnaire, two Auxiliaries or one Legionnaire, one Auxiliary and one SAL. The other two bowlers can be a friend of the veterans.

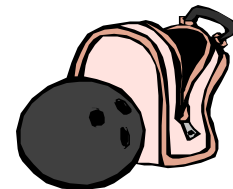
This year's tournament will be March 27th and 28th, 2010 in Clarksburg WV.

More information will be on its way. If you have any question and/or comments, feel free to call me at home. The number is 740-439-4583.

Thanks for your help,
Jim Davis
Bowling Chairman

*** 49th Annual WV Legionnaire Bowling Tournament Entry Form is on the State Web Site at: www.wvaux.org or call 1-888604-2242 for a copy of the form.

Team — \$75.00
Doubles — \$30.00
Singles — \$15.00
\$2.00 All event optional



HISTORIAN

HELLO Hearts and Stars

I would like to visit all the spring conferences that I can. The weather has been so bad down here in McDowell Co that we all have cabin fever. Slip and slide is no fun on ice and snow. I hope that everyone who got out of the snow banks and went to the Mid winter Conference had a great time. I did not get to go because of the weather. I missed our National President's visit, a very nice lady.

The stars are still shining bright and the Hearts are still beating strong for membership. Go for it Ladies you are doing great. The Veterans need our help, the children and youth need our love, the community that we live in needs our attention.

I hope everyone had a great Valentines day and everyone got a big box of candy, Chocolate is good for you. To all Dept members that are not feeling well please do get better. Spring is around the corner, then you can spring into action and get in the membership and visit a Veteran who needs help.

I would like to thank Gary and Beth Wolfe for attending the Birthday Dinner at the Welch American Legion Post #8. There was a good turn out after all the bad weather.

The History Album is ready for all those reports Ladies, Let's make it a good one for our 90th birthday. I had a beautiful HAT all decorated up for the Birthday Luncheon but just could not make it. Take care Stars and Hearts and God Bless all our Veterans wherever they may be on land or sea.

Rita Alley (Dept Historian)

First District President

Hello ladies of 1st District:

I really hate that I was not able to attend Mid-Winter Conference. I had plans to attend by my Doctor put a stop to that. I am not allowed to go back to Arby's or PPG until after the baby comes. Due date is April 10th but not sure if it will be that long. Baby and I seem to be doing OK for now. I am just very bored not able to do much—get tired of sitting /laying around all the time. Cartoons get very old — Marshall loves them though.

I know all the Units in 1st District are working very hard on programs. The end-of-year reports have been mailed out in the 3rd Quarterly Mailing so take a look at all the reports so you can see what you may have already done or what you still have time to do before reporting into Dept by May 1st.

I would like to see some GOAL Units by 1st District Spring Conference on April 25th at Chester and see each Unit in 1st District represented at this conference. This will be my last Conference as your District President and I would like to have a perfect attendance by all Units.

Take care, stay warm and keep all our Troops and their families in your prayers.

April Postlethwait
1st District President



4th District President

Hello Ladies of 4th District :

Greetings to all the bright "Stars" out there in 4th District. Membership is slowing down. I want to emphasize how important membership is! I hope we all do our part in getting those renewals in and also new members. I want to encourage each and everyone one of you to do your best

Our 4th District Spring Conference will be hosted by New Haven Unit 140 on April 11, 2010. Registration starts at 9 A.M. I don't have cost yet I will let you know as soon as I find out.

Don't forget we will be having a Memorial Service for our deceased members from April 2009 to the end of March 2010. Mail your list to our District Chaplin Helen Leasure at 519 44th Street Vienna, WV. 26105 Hope to see a room full of "Bright Stars" at Spring Conference

Nancy Sundstrom
4th District President

1st Dist. Vice President

Hello to all you beautiful "stars"!

I hope all of you are enjoying this lovely weather! As for me, I am ready for Spring!!

I hope everyone that was at the Mid-Winter made it home safe and sound! We had a great time, considering all that happened weather wise! Thank you to all that made this a great conference!

I want to thank all our 1st District Unit members for working hard on Membership. We still have a ways to go, but I know that we can do it!! I want to congratulate the following Units for making Target# 7— 85%

Cameron #18, New Martinsville #28, Wellsburg #34, Pine Grove #81, Wheeling #89, Chester #121.

Please remember the challenges. We are running close with 10th District and we need to press on a little harder so we can win that box of diapers!! They sure will come in handy for our District President April. The red dress is also going to look wonderful on Dortha. I hope our wonderful Sharon is feeling better!!! Also, please be working on the Membership Report that I will need turned in by the 1st of April. I want a report from all Units....remember I only want a brief summary of what your Unit did to get new members and renewals.

If anyone needs anything at any time, please know that I am just a phone call away! Remember, there is no "I" in Teamwork! If we all work together, we can accomplish great things! Until next time, be safe and Come on Spring!!!!

God Bless You All
and God Bless America!
Susan Wade
1st District Vice President

Eighth District

Hi Ladies of the 8th District,

Sorry I was unable to attend the Mid-Winter Conference at Morgantown. I'm sure Paulette Anderson did a fine job and had a very informative session laid out for those who were able to attend. In December, I tripped over a loose shoe lace and twisted my left knee. When I'm on it, especially standing, it gets to where I can hardly bend the knee, especially to take steps. I thought about it and told myself that I could not make those long walks in the hotel.

Also, as the weather was predicted to get bad and snow pile up, I felt it was best for me to stay home. No one from the 8th District was willing to go with me, and I thought I best not be out there on those roads by myself.

I wish we could get rid of that goose egg in the 8th District membership soon. Perhaps, the District would be goal. Congratulations to Units 20 and 73 for making goal already. Also to South Charleston #94 for reaching Target #7 — over 85%.

Don't forget that our Spring Conference is coming up on April 17th at St. Albans. Contact Janet Durbin, PDP, with the number who will be attending. Also, send a list of your departed ladies to Ilene Stanley, District Chaplain, for our memorial service.

I trust that you are staying well and especially staying warm this winter. This has really been a bad winter, but perhaps when spring comes we can start getting out doing more of our programs and making ourselves seen in our communities.

Mary Bess, President
8th District



Children and Youth

April is Children and Youth month and I hope every unit is focusing on an activity during that time. Our Children and Youth Program is built upon the pledge to maintain the integrity of the American family. This encompasses military, veteran and civilian families. In today's world, no child should suffer abuse, hunger, or neglect. The American Legion Family works to provide assistance to veterans and their spouses to try to keep the family unit together. In the event no assistance can be given directly to these families by your Unit or Post, be prepared to direct them to the proper local agencies that can.

Check with your local schools to see if there are children from military families who are enrolled. If so, determine if there are any outstanding needs for these children, which may be as simple as for pencils or paper. In some instances, the only food these children get is at the school cafeteria. Additionally, experts feel that there is a strong correlation between a child's increased stress level and number of times a parent is deployed, which affects academic performance, among other aspects of daily life.

I know you are working diligently to make life better for the children and youth in your community. We need to continue to do our part while the parent(s) of these children are deployed. Partner with you Post or Sons of the American Legion to double or triple your efforts.

Two informative websites to check out:

- Operation Military Kids (OMK) www.operationmilitarychild.org
- The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) www.militarychild.org

Beth Kilgore

Department Children & Youth Chairman



Rhododendron Girls State



Snow Snow Snow – I've had enough of it! I hope that things are better across the state soon. Even if the weather is not too good, we still have the responsibility of getting out the information on Rhododendron Girls State. The packets are finally in the mail to those units that could not make it to Mid-winter Conference. I receive very little information from the units on unit chairmen names and addresses. Packets were mailed based on the latest information that I have. If you have a question as to whom your unit packet was mailed, please let me know. You can contact me by phone 304-654-9932 or mail 105 Cheyenne Trail, Ona WV 25545 or email AnnBuch@aol.com.

Contact your schools as soon as possible. May 1 is the deadline for applications and fees, but we will take them in April. The earlier we get them in the better for the girls. The schools have received their notification letters and are waiting to hear from you. If you need help with an Orientation please contact your District representative.

Please check online at the Department Website www.wvvaux.org for information on Girls State. Mary Rose has been busy getting the site updated. There will be Orientation information on the site very soon. We will be adding any new information as we have it. Updates will also be sent to the units using Mail Call. If you are the unit contact person, please pass on the information since most of it is dated. Spring will be here soon – I know.

Ann Buchanan
RGS Registrar



2010 Rhododendron Girls State

June 13—18, 2010

Wheeling Jesuit University

Irene Weber, Directory

Renie895@cs.com

304-258-1036

State Web-Site — www.wvvaux.org

2010 THEME:

“American Legion Auxiliary
Investing in our Youth”

2010 COMMUNITY PROJECT

WV Army National Guard

Co C 1/150 AVN

Family Support Group

Rhododendron Girls State District Representatives

1st Dist — Jill McCallister

205 Grant Ave
Moundsville WV 26041
845-5928

3rd Dist — Tallulah Simpson

512 Worthington Dr Apt 13
Bridgeport WV 26330
838-1593

4th Dist — Susan Hall

P O Box 95
New Haven WV 25265
882-3602

5th Dist — Katena Karnes

721 10th Ave
Huntington WV 25701
525-5634

6th Dist — Peggy Swartz

P O Box 124
Gary, WV 24836
448-2394

8th Dist — Mary Bess

215 N. Pinch Road
Elkview, WV 25071
965-3192

9th Dist — Sandy Grahame

P O Box 503
Elkins WV 26241
636-7855

10th Dist — Lynda Lancaster

103 E. 10th Ave
Ranson WV 25438
725-4370

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Hope everyone has recovered from Mid-Winter Conference and is back into their February schedule. I realize the snow continues to fall and lay on the ground in most areas, but if you are able to dig out, don't forget our veterans during this month. It started with "Salute To Hospitalized Veterans" during Valentine Week; however, if you were unable to visit a VA Hospital or out-patient facility or nursing home that week; it is never too late anytime during the month. As the local hospital director reminded us in a newspaper article today, the World War II patients' families are dwindling, and many welcome a visit or someone with whom to talk.

I did not get this until after my message went into the "Spirit" last month, but I want to tell you of a Special Memorandum I got from the National VA&R Chairman Kris Nelson. One of the emphasis of the National Program is the Ride-2-Recovery (our National President made mention of it during her visit at Mid-Winter). On February 27th, participating health clubs nationwide will be hosting two one-hour indoor cycling classes. There is a minimum \$75 donation to ride, which you pay out of pocket or fundraise. If each 24 HR Fitness Center location is filled there will be a \$1.4M donation to R2R. The object of the ALA is to sign up members, friends and neighbors to fill the available time slots. You can log on to www.spinningation.org to find the location nearest you. Register as a participant and begin fundraising to sponsor your ride. I realize there is not much time, but if you can be a part of this program; you have mine and the National organization's gratitude. They also mentioned they would accept any donations earmarked R2R, which would be funneled through our Department Treasurer.

Words cannot begin to thank everyone who was a part of the Comfort Item Drive at Mid-Winter Conference. We had nearly \$10,000 worth of donated comfort items; and I know I speak for the 4 VA facilities and WV Veterans home when I say "thank you" to everyone who either sent, brought with you or delivered the boxes of items back to the facilities for me. I will be getting out "thank you" notes in the next few weeks to those Units, Posts, SAL Squadrons who participated. If I should miss any group please let me know, because sometimes things were left in the room with out backup paper.

Also, I was too busy in the Comfort Item Room to be in the Mid-Winter Meetings, so I gave Mary Rose to deliver to those District Presidents - Vice Presidents in attendance the pins, bars, etc. earned for Hospital, Field Service and Home Service through last May. I was shorted some Field Service pins when they sent our order, so they will be mailed separately for several units in the 10th District. I hope they will be distributed at the Spring Conferences before their peers, so that everyone will be recognized for their volunteering and dedication to our veterans. If I missed someone, please let me know. I used the records I had and what was listed on the reports for Field and Home Service. I already have one that has



JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Hello Hearts and Stars,

I would like to thank everyone that participated in the "Box of Hope" for the infants at WVU Children's Hospital in Morgantown. I'm happy to report that we collected nearly \$600 worth of items for the babies. Due to the weather the Junior's trip to Children's Hospital had to be canceled. The baby items will be taken to the hospital by Department President Patricia Moore.

I have a correction from last months SPIRIT any junior working on the Patch Program the worksheets need to be sent to me by May 1,2010. Remember even if your unit only has 1 or 2 juniors they can work on the Patch Program. With a little guidance they can be very successful at this program.



It's time for your juniors to be thinking about joining us at our July meeting. Also if your unit has any juniors interested in becoming an honorary junior officer now is the time to have them endorsed. This program has flourished and we need to keep our juniors active and interested.



Our juniors have worked hard this year to help their families, the babies and now the needy. Yes once again we are asking for your help. For the July meeting our project is to collect school supplies for our needy children/schools. With your support this project will be our greatest achievement.

If you have any questions please call or email me 304-258-5804, 304-268-2353 or foxbd@aol.com.

To Our Young Leaders,
Junior Activities Chairman
Debbie Fox

Third District Chaplain

Hello Ladies of 3rd District!

Hope everyone is surviving the snowy winter of 2010. As you know, our 3rd District Spring Conference will be held at Clarksburg Unit 13 on Saturday, March 13th at 10 a.m. **I'm in need of your Unit's Deceased Members list from July 1, 2009 to present day (Unit Number, Their Full Name, Date of Death and Years of Membership).** There will be a Memorial Service held for them again this year, and I would like each Unit President (or someone you select) to light a candle for each of your deceased members. If no one will be at the Conference from your Unit to do this, please let me know this as well, so I can plan ahead, asking another Unit to volunteer for you. By the time you read this, there will be less than 2 weeks to get your Deceased Members to me. I would appreciate it if you would contact me *right away*; much planning goes into the Memorial Service.

Thank you ladies, and stay warm and safe! See you at Spring Conference.

God Bless you all, Mary McNair, 3rd District Chaplain
(E) marymcnair71@yahoo.com (304) 622-0894

Education

It is a statistic that nationally over 25 percent of the potential high school graduates drop out before graduation. In some major cities the rate is 40 percent. Higher standards in the public schools have affected millions of minority and disadvantaged students who are "at-risk." Out of that 25 percent, how many of those children are "Special Education Kids"?

Did I say Special Education? What is that? Special education is the education of students with special needs in a way that addresses the students' individual differences and needs. Ideally, this process involves the individually planned and systematically monitored arrangement of teaching procedures, adapted equipment and materials, accessible settings, and other interventions designed to help learners with special needs achieve a higher level of personal self-sufficiency and success in school and community than would be available if the student were only given access to a typical classroom education.

Common special needs include learning difficulties, communication challenges, emotional and behavioral disorders, physical disabilities and developmental disorders. Students with these kinds of special needs are likely to benefit from additional educational services, different approaches to teaching, access to a resource room, use of technology and maybe a specialized program.

One should not forget that intellectually gifted is considered to be a special education student. The reason for this is that they often fall by the wayside because of boredom and the lack of attention given to their gifts

What make the Special Ed kid at risk? In some cases they are left by the way side. They are not capable of passing the state's assessment tools for graduation. Because these children are different, they do not have the opportunities to get vocational training that will enable them to have a successful life.

What will help these young adults to have a more successful future? Maybe it is you who acts as a mentor, an instructor or as a friend. I think it is best told as a story.

In 1958 Special Education wasn't even a dream. Kids who couldn't learn were put in a large room and given social passes. For one young girl, the letters were all mixed up. To her all the letters looked like they were in mirrors. Today she would be diagnosed as dyslexic. She never missed a day of school. Yet by the time, she was ten she couldn't read. Numbers were easy, but the words made her cry.

Along came a fourth grade teacher, who understood the problem. On her own time, she would work this little girl. By the end of the year a miracle occurred. The child was reading and wouldn't be stopped. The town library didn't have enough books for the child because she took them out seven at a time.

At graduation day in 1971, she had never missed a day of school. Not even a broken leg kept her from class. She wasn't at the top of her class, but she had learned a trade. The high school principal said that was the best she could do. She was still that kid who had trouble with words. Yet her mom, dad and fourth grade teacher encouraged her to try harder and to go on to college....

The story ends that I managed to get a few college degrees and now I teach "Special Education". I was a child at risk until a mentor and a friend took me under their wing. So today, I mentor and pray for the success of my children.

Be a mentor to a "Child at risk"

Denise Kelly
Dept Education Chairman

NINTH DISTRICT

Hark to all 9th District Unit Members!—

Can you hear or see any signs of Spring yet? Any crocuses or returning birds? Boy, Spring can't get here soon enough for me!!

March is Community Service month and what better time to get out into our communities, decked in our ALA shirts to identify our cause, and make ourselves known. As stated in our National Community Service Plan of Work, now is the time to partner with local organizations and groups to identify needs of communities and work together to make a difference.

Our Mid-Winter Conference at Lakeview Resort, Morgantown, was very memorable, to say the least! We got right in the middle of a winter storm, covered with 18-20" of snow, power out for over half a day, and unable to get off the resort due to a pole which fell across the resort driveway. But do you think that stopped us from getting together and having a good time, learning a lot, and celebrating the American Legion Auxiliary's 90th Birthday? Not on your life! We also were blessed to have our National ALA President Rita Navarrete with us the whole time. She is a very nice lady and she participated very graciously in our programs. Two members made it from Cowen Unit and 3 from Belington.

Our number of goal units has increased from two (Belington and Cowen) to three— Congratulations to Richwood for making goal with 100%! We are proud of you! Lewisburg and Pickens are not far from goal and Elkins is making strides. Let's go girls—we are getting closer to the end of this Auxiliary year.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Margaret Stone, Unit President of Lewisburg and previous 9th District President for many years. She will be missed! Our sincere condolences go out to her family at this time.

Stay busy for our Veterans,
'til next time,
Paula Booth, 9th District President



Tenth District

Hello Tenth District Hearts,

For those of you that didn't make the snowy trip to Lakeview Resort in Morgantown, WV you missed a very informative weekend. It would have been easier to get across the parking lot without the snow but we were up to the challenge.

We received several certificates for district membership. These will be given out at our Spring Conference February 27,2010 at Berkeley unit # 14 in Martinsburg. I hope every unit has a delegation present for the election.

The Tenth District Birthday Dinner will be February 27,2010 at Post # 14, social hour 6PM and dinner at 7PM.

Just in case you don't know I have about 50 inches of snow in my front yard. I'm really looking forward to seeing some green grass and a couple of robins out front.

Until Next Time,
Tenth District President
Debbie Fox

MEMBERSHIP — 2009-2010

Target #7 February 15, 2010 — 85%
 Total to Date — 7510 (79.12%)
 2010 National Goal — 9491
 Headquarters Unit #200 — 65

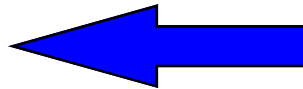
Posted
 2/18/10

District 1			
Unit	2010 Goal	2010	% of Goal
Wheeling #1	30	6	20.00
Moundsville #3	318	267	83.96
McMechen #5	New Unit	37	
Weirton #10	89	69	77.53
Cameron #18	206	187	90.78
New Martinsville #28	158	139	87.97
Wellsburg #34	49	33	85.71
Follansbee #45	49	42	83.67
Benwood #46	172	114	66.28
Pine Grove #81	102	92	90.20
Paden City #86	132	112	84.85
Wheeling #89	51	48	94.12
Newell #114	59	26	44.07
Hundred #120	146	123	84.25
Chester #121	195	175	89.74
TOTALS	1756	1470	83.24

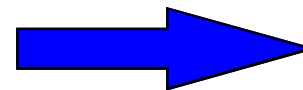
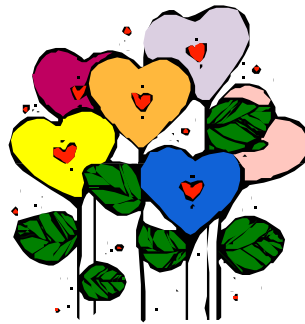


STARS
 Goal — 4556
 To Date — 3823
 (83.91%)

District 4			
Unit	2010 Goal	2010	% of Goal
Parkersburg #15	1084	878	81.00
Spencer #21	80	64	80.00
Pt Pleasant #23	309	248	80.26
Sistersville #67	130	*146	112.31
Parkersburg #104	18	15	83.33
Ripley #107	25	21	84.00
New Haven #140	223	194	87.00
Williamstown #159	176	151	85.80
TOTALS	2045	1717	83.96



District 6			
Unit	2010 Goal	2010	% of Goal
Welch #8	110	73	66.36
Bluefield #9	34	22	64.71
Beckley #32	58	43	74.14
Gary #38	55	*55	100.00
Beckley #70	18	14	77.78
Fayetteville #149	52	42	80.77
TOTALS	327	249	76.15



District 9			
Unit	2010 Goal	2010	% of Goal
Elkins #29	221	184	83.26
Cowen #62	44	*45	102.27
Lewisburg #69	97	95	97.94
Belington #96	22	*23	104.55
Richwood #97	16	*16	100.00
Pickens #122	28	24	85.71
TOTALS	428	387	90.42

HEARTS
 Goal — 4539
 To Date — 3630
 (79.08%)

District 3			
Unit	2010 Goal	2010	% of Goal
Weston #4	29	17	58.62
Buckhannon #7	60	56	93.33
Grafton #12	62	35	56.45
Clarksburg #13	164	144	87.80
Shinnston #31	362	283	78.18
Gassaway #33	38	28	73.68
Mannington #40	24	23	95.83
Philippi #44	70	65	92.86
Kingwood #56	11	1	9.09
Bridgeport #68	80	68	85.00
Jane Lew #166	66	*66	100.00
TOTALS	966	786	81.37

District 5			
Unit	2010 Goal	2010	% of Goal
Huntington #16	338	273	80.77
Logan #19	30	21	70.00
Ceredo-Kenova #93	670	441	65.82
Hamlin #111	89	54	60.67
Milton #139	123	114	92.68
Barboursville #177	225	179	79.56
TOTALS	1475	1082	73.36

District 8			
Unit	2010 Goal	2010	% of Goal
Charleston #20	77	*81	105.19
Charleston #57	13	0	0.00
St Albans #73	130	*133	102.31
South Charleston #94	17	16	94.12
TOTALS	237	230	97.05

District 10			
Unit	2010 Goal	2010	% of Goal
Martinsburg #14	150	126	78.75
Franklin #30	20	*21	105.00
Keyser #41	57	48	84.21
Piedmont #52	23	*27	117.39
Berkeley Springs #60	281	218	77.58
Moorefield #64	191	161	83.85
Charles Town #71	244	217	88.93
Petersburg #78	100	74	74.00
Romney #91	348	256	73.56
Charles Town #102	11	*11	100.00
Paw Paw #128	84	70	83.33
Kirby #134	57	*59	103.51
Ridgeley #136	107	94	87.85
Capon Bridge #137	119	90	75.63
Keyser #152	58	*58	100.00
Riverton #183	11	10	90.91
TOTALS	1861	1540	82.26



**American Legion Auxiliary
 Department of West Virginia
 Patricia Moore, President**



March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 UNIT DATA FORMS DUE	2	3	4	5 Mail Call To Units	6
	Awareness Assembly — Washington DC					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 3rd Dist Conf. Clarksburg #13
14 Daylight Savings Time Begins	15	16	17	18	19 Mail Call To Units	20 SPRING BEGINS!!!
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 5th Dist Conf. Barboursville #177	29	30	31	Programs of Month Community Service Auxiliary Emergency Fund		