



The Auxiliary Spirit



Volume 28

March 2015

Issue 8



American Legion Auxiliary
2014-2015
Department President
Paula Booth



Upward and Onward For Veterans

Greetings to all Grateful Hearts!

I hope all are staying warm and healthy, and those who are under the weather soon improve. February proved to be a windy, icy, snowy, bitter cold month and boy, are we looking forward to Spring!

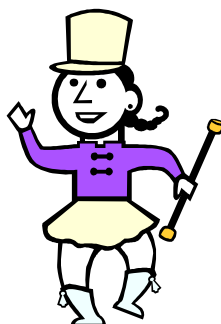
The Mid-Winter Conference was extremely informative. I want to thank Ann Buchanan (Dept. Leadership Chairman) and all those Department Chairmen who contributed to the meeting, as well as those who graciously substituted for ones who were absent!

We were also privileged to hear from our Distinguished Guest Central Division National Vice President, Laura Mosby; as well as our own Central Division members Ann Buchanan (Education Committee Chairman), Lisa Cadwallader (Leadership Central Division Chairman), and Debbie Fox (NEC and Junior Activities Committee Member). You were all fantastic!

We welcomed those members who have never attended this Conference and look for you back! Membership Luncheon was brightened by the beautiful "purple" centerpieces—Silent Auction and Comfort Item Drive went well—Thanks to all involved in these projects! Thanks to the Martinsburg folks who are wonderful hosts—very welcoming!

Hope to see a lot of you at the upcoming Spring Conferences and Legion Birthday Dinners. Work on your Membership, Respect each other, develop your Leaders, Strengthen your Units, and wear your Brand!

Love to all!!
Paula Booth
Department President



Department Officers 2014-2015

President—Paula Booth
1st Vice President—Susan Wade
2nd Vice President—Tammy Workman
Sec/Treas.—Paulette Anderson
Chaplain—Ramona Westfall
Historian—Rhonda Best
District Presidents 2014-2015
1st District—Donna Leek
3rd District—Connie Bailey
4th District—Nancy Sundstrom
5th District—Beth Kilgore
6th District—Peggy Swartz
8th District—Mary Bess
9th District—Marion Gregory
10th District—Lisa Turner

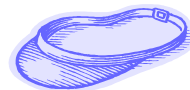
District Vice Presidents 2014-2015

1st District—Marlene Stansberry
3rd District—Carla Wilfong
4th District—Cathy Post
5th District—JoAnn Hastings
6th District—Rita Alley
8th District—Rose Reese
9th District—Jeanie Phares
10th District—Sharon Glassford





Department Headquarters— "Ticket Taker"



Mandatory Funds are Bonding, Department Scholarship, Girls State Project, Veterans 1st Fund, Poppy Order & 10% Poppy Proceeds. Make check payable to Department Treasurer, ALA. DUE into Department July 31st to be a Unit in good standing.

Processing Membership:

Make sure your membership is into Department Headquarters by the 15th to be counted for Targets.

Membership:

All applications must have signature of a Post Officer and if they are a Junior member a Birthdate. **Unit Membership Chairman should check each application to make sure it is filled out completely including City, Post #, State and zip code. If eligibility is under a Veteran living all information must be filled out before processing into Department Headquarters.** If a veteran is living they must hold membership in The American Legion. **All unfinished applications will be returned this year.** I am receiving too many mistakes on applications. Please check the Birthdates of your Juniors renewing this year. If they will turn 18 years old by December 31, 2014 they are considered a Senior Member. I have had a few Units who has a Debit for this reason.

Remember: if a Woman Veteran joins the Auxiliary under herself you must put on the application at the top **"Honor Our Women Veterans"** to get the discount from National. Unit Secretary can sign these applications **ONLY**

MAKE SURE THE POST OFFICER SIGNS OTHER APPLICATIONS.

Cookbooks: we still have about 109 cookbooks to sell. Contact Dept. Headquarters to purchase one. **Support our Veterans!!!**

Department received at Midwinter a check from the Dept. Ways & Means for \$2079.00. 75% will go into the Dept. Welfare Fund and 25% will go to the General Fund.

Other funds received is on page 9 of Spirit.

Dates To Remember:

3rd District Spring Conference
March 7th
Clarksburg Post #13 (Joint)

10th District Spring Conference
April 11th
Martinsburg Post #14 (Joint)

4th District Spring Conference
April 12th
Parkersburg Post #15 (Joint)

5th District Spring Conference
April 18th
Barboursville Post #177 (Joint)

8th District Spring Conference
April 18th
South Charleston Unit #94

Department National Leadership Conference May 1-4, 2015
Office Closed

Memorial Day May 25th
Office Closed

Rhododendron Girls State
Wheeling Jesuit University
June 22-27, 2015

Credentials Deadline for Convention
Thursday June 25, 2014

Department Convention
Morgantown WV
July 9-12, 2015

National Convention
Baltimore Maryland
August 28-September 3, 2015

Labor Day Office Closed

Fall Workshop/Executive Board
Days Inn Bridgeport WV
September 11-12, 2015

DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

Office Hours: Monday-Friday
9:00-4:00

Answering Machine and Fax
available 24 Hours
Office (304) 455-5007
FAX: (304) 455 5825
Toll Free 1-888-604-2242

Mailing Address:
1251 Doolin Run Road
New Martinsville WV 26155-7808

American Legion Auxiliary
Department Email:
alawvsec@frontier.com

Rhododendron Girls State Website:
www.wvgirlsststate.org

The American Legion
Department Email:
wvlegion@suddenlinkmail.com

National Auxiliary website:
alaforveterans.org

Remember Our Friends

Foster Sirbaugh, husband of Girls State Director Michelle Sirbaugh was hospitalized recently for a ventricular tachycardia. They put a pacemaker in and also is on medication to regulate his heart rate. He is home now.

Cards may be sent to:

Foster Sirbaugh
85 Key Acres Drive
Berkeley Springs WV 25411

Nancy Sundstrom, PDP, and 4th District President is in the hospital for Congested Heart Failure and Upper Respiratory Infection.

Cards may be sent to:

Nancy Sundstrom, PDP
1307 23rd Street
Parkersburg WV 26101

Let's keep them in our prayers.

"WELCOMING OUR MEMBERSHIP"

Membership Chairman

Hi Ladies

Wow the cold weather just keeps coming.

Thank you to all of you that attended the Min-Winter Conference. Those that did not come you missed a great conference.

Please keep working on your membership. We still have two units that are Goal. I know you can make your units Goal.

% Share with you the National figures: 23rd Place for renewals/rejoin 75.68%. Our division; Central is in 2nd place. We are 5th in Central Division for Rejoin/Renew. We are contributing to help make our 1 million member. Donna is very proud of everyone, she knows you are working very hard.

It is so great that we have no goose eggs!!! We just need to continual push for Membership. Which you are doing and I know you will continue.

District 1 is in first place with 98.98% following District 4 - 84.68 %, District 6 - 84.42 % close behind, District 3- 82.73%, District 10 - 77.86%, District 9 - 76.47%, District 5 - 77.17 %, District 8 - 66.21%.

Let's go Districts. You can do it!!

"Torch Lighters" are at 88.63 %, and "Tablet Writers" 78.21 %. Department is at 84.83 %.

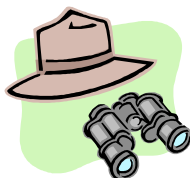
Should you need help with your membership please contact your Department Vice Presidents. They are there to help.

Keep up the great work. You can do this for our Veterans. We need to increase our Juniors; they are the next generation to give to our Veterans. We have the best Juniors of all the United States!!!!

Thank you again for all the VOLUNTEER SERVICES YOU GIVE.

God Bless our Veterans and America. Faith, Family, Freedom. We are Central Division Team Spirit. "We Are In It To Win It".

Sharon Glassford
Membership Chairman



1st Vice President

Hello Ladies!

I had a great time at Mid-Winter Conference!!! We missed seeing a lot of you!! I am sure those that did attend, came back with some valuable information! All sessions were great and we had the pleasure of having our Central Division National Vice President, Laura Mosby with us. She is very enthusiastic and gave a great talk on the Centennial Strategic Planning Guide!

As you all know, National is wanting a MILLION MEMBERS by our 100 year anniversary, which is 2019!! This can be accomplished with all of us working together! I know that some members have lost interest, for whatever reason. I urge all of you to find out why this is happening. Remind those that have not paid that by paying their dues, they ARE supporting our Veterans!

I want to Congratulate the following Units for reaching Target 7-90%: Clarksburg Unit 13; Charles Town Unit 71 and Keyser Unit 152!! Great job ladies!! We have many Units so close!!

Please Do Not Hold Dues! We (The Wigs) are struggling in our competition with The Flames). They are ahead of us by 10.42%. I know we can catch up and soar ahead!!

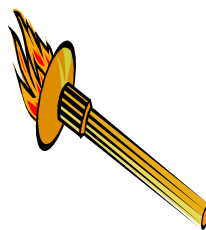
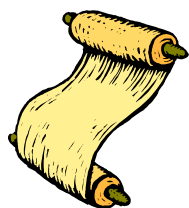
We are winding down, but we still have a few months to get our Membership in and reach our Goal!!!

Stay warm...hopefully Spring is just around the corner!! It can't come soon enough for me!!\

God Bless Our Veterans!!

God Bless Each of You!!

Susan Wade AKA The Tablet Writer
Department 1st Vice President



2nd Vice President

Hello everyone,

Spring is just around the corner. Our 'French Creek Freddie' predicted an early spring so don't pay any attention to the report from that ornery groundhog, Punxatawney Phil. As the weather warms up we'll be able to get out more so remember to carry membership applications with you. In the meantime, now is a perfect time to make those phone calls to members who have not yet renewed their dues.

During mid-winter conference the "Flames" did very well on membership. We have two GOAL units. Paden City Unit 86 and Beckley Unit 32. Fantastic job Ladies, display those ribbons proudly, you earned them. We also had several units who received certificates for meeting Targets. Congratulations you're doing a wonderful job! Also at the conference First District was the only district to WIN their membership challenge, and they also won first place in the membership centerpiece contest. Congratulations 1st District.

Now on to the current membership, we've reached Target #7 at 90 %. Our "Flames" (Districts 1,4,6, &9) are doing a fine job. Congratulations go to 1st District who is 98.98% with units meeting or exceeding the 90% Target, McMechen Unit 5, Pine Grove Unit 81, Paden City Unit 86 GOAL, and Chester Unit 121, and several units who almost made it, Awesome work Ladies!!! Fourth District stands at 84.68% with Point Pleasant Unit 23 meeting Target 7, and a few who came very close. Fantastic job Ladies! 6th District is 84.42% with one Goal Unit, Beckley Unit 32, and a few who came very close to meeting Target #7. Congratulations, you're doing a great job Ladies! 9th District is 76.47% with one unit who made Target 7, Belington Unit 96, Wonderful work. Our 'Torches' are burning pretty bright but we still have a lot of work to do. We are currently 88.63% which sounds really good but we need an overall 3737 members to meet our Goal, which means, about 450 more members. WE CAN DO IT!!! I'll be watching for emails from District Vice Presidents in 1,4,6, & 9, or you can call to let me know which of your units you contacted this past month. The open communication is working for us, just look at our percentages.
Tammy Workman, 2nd Vice President

First District President

Hello Ladies,

I like to tell everyone that did not make it to the Mid-winter Conference you all missed a good time . The weather was nice. You all think because you have been to it before, is the same all the time. Well this was something new. I have been to several and learn something new ever time.

Keep up all the good work with your Unit and membership. Thank you all for the comfort items.

Will stay in and take care but keep up and send in your membership.

God Bless

Donna Leek

1st District President

First District Vice President

Ladies!

I am so proud of the Unit for reaching your Goal, Paden City Unit #86.

I am also glad to see Units #3; #18 & #121 that you have been working hard.

I know that the rest can do it, get on the phone or go and visit them.

Good luck & late Happy Valentine's day.

Marlene Stansberry

1st District Vice President

Fourth District Vice President

Brrrrr hello Touch Lighters,

With 5 1/2 months to go, most of the units are coming along nicely. Pt Pleasant #23 is almost to goal with Parkersburg #15 and Williamstown #159 coming at close 2nds. New Haven #140 is 3/4 of the way there, Parkersburg #104 getting closer to that point. Spencer #21 is real close to 70% and Sistersville #67 is bringing up the tail end at only 59.24%. I'm going to ask #67 to all become recruiters for membership. Keep these 3 R's in mind...RECRUIT, RE-NEW, RETAIN. All units please rememberdo not hold dues, make sure they are filled out completely and correctly and sent in a timely manner.

I look forward to April 12th District Conference and giving my membership report along with some of my ideas as to why some units are having low membership dues collected. Take care, stay safe and warm, and thank a Veteran.

For God and Country

Cathy Post

4th District Vice President.

Fifth District President

As I write this, it has been snowing since early morning and we currently have 7 inches on the ground and it is still coming down. Please check on your neighbors and the elderly during this time. Check on our veterans (especially the homeless) and do what you can so they have as warm place to lay their heads at night.

Those of you, who missed Mid-Winter Conference, missed a wonderful, informative weekend. Ann Buchanan put together an excellent program for the day. Thank you, Ann!

Keep those memberships coming in. We need all the members we can get. Have you asked someone to join the best organization lately?

5th District Spring Conference is April 18th at Barboursville Post #177. Make plans now to attend.

Beth Kilgore

5th District President

Our soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen volunteer to protect and defend this country and all its citizens, and do so with honor, integrity and excellence. Our nation continually asks them to do more and more, with less and less. - Allen West

Third District President

Hello all

Hope everyone is looking forward to a new year of opportunities and accomplishments.

New applicants are always a goal, but don't forget those faithful members who regularly attend meetings & are always willing to help whenever needed. We often overlook our longtime membership. It never hurts to say "THANK YOU". Just some reminders.

Dist. Chaplain Betsy Turner needs your Unit information for Spring Memorial Service.

Endorsements & Year End Unit Reports are also due at this time.

On Jan.10th I mailed Registration & Credential Certification forms to all Dist. #3 Units. If you do not have them by now, please email me and I will resend.

District #3 Spring Conf.

March 7, 2015

Clarksburg Unit #13

Registration 9:00-10:00 AM

Fee \$10.00

THANK YOU ALL!

Yours in Service

Connie Bailey, Dist. #3 Pres.

crb1940@3wlogic.net

Fifth District Vice President

Hello Ladies,

I'm sorry I couldn't attend the Mid Winter Conference. I missed seeing everyone. We are doing better in the Fifth District. I know all are working hard to get membership up. We need to get new members in and get the older ones back. Without the members we are lost. Try and find out what we need to do and if I can help. That is why I am District Vice President. We are all in this together.

Thank you for all you are doing and have done, it is important that we reach our goal.

God Bless

JoAnn Hastings

5th District Vice President

Sixth District President

Hello To Everyone

Sure hope that everyone has survived this snow storm that we are having, if this snow is in your area please be safe if you need to be out in this mess.

Well here are a few things that is going on in our District. Welch Unit 8 cooked dinner for the 40/8 this month and we all had to drive home in a bad snow, but thankful we did make it home without an accident. We have not been working bingo since the snow so we all stayed home for safety reason. The good thing about February that Rita and I got to go to Mid-Winter and the weather was nice except it was cold.

I think we had a nice meeting and learned a lot, Lisa Cadwallader had a nice slide show and we had to answer questions and turn them in it was very interesting. It was nice to have Beckley Unit 32 at Mid Winter those attending was Kathy Bailey and Dee Jennings so glad that you all got to attend. Gary Unit 32 has done several things on November 24, Judy Chapman delivered 2 fruit baskets to their two Adopted Veterans for Thanksgiving as their Unit Fall Project, Dec 3rd Judy Chapman, Helen Schuler and Marsha Riffe helped at the Gift Shop Beckley V Hospital, on December 11, the same 3 ladies delivered Unit Gifts to 40 Veterans at the hospital. on December 19th Judy Chapman delivered gifts to a special lady and a special gentleman, at the Nursing Home in Gary. December 21st Helen Schuler, Milly Cepelnik delivered Christmas gifts to their adopted veteran in the Gary area as our Winter Project in Nov and December Marsha Riffe sent out Fall Cards and Christmas Cards to 52 Veterans in the Gary area and to the Veterans in her church. Presently working on collecting Comfort Items. They are planning on having a luncheon with Post 38 members. They will also celebrate "Chapel of Four Chaplains" in February. Looks like Unit 38 has been busy keep up the good work ladies.

Keep working on membership and hope we can all have a Goal Unit,

Beckley Unit 32 received their Goal Ribbon at Mid Winter proud of you ladies.

Everyone please be safe and keep our Veterans in your prayers.

Peggy Swartz
6th District President

Tenth District President

Hello Ladies,

It is now the middle of February and most of us are enjoying the coldest weather of the year. I hope that everyone stays safe and is careful.

The Mid-Winter conference is now over, and the 10th District didn't have to drive to Huntington. Since it was in Martinsburg we were well represented and I saw a lot of new faces. It was a pleasure to meet any of you that I hadn't met before.

One thing that happened at the conference was that Sharon Kauffman, the President of Unit 14, was presented the American Legion Department of WV Distinguished Service Award. We all do a lot to support our Legionnaires, and sometime it seems that we get little or no recognition. This award is recognition of her outstanding service to the Post, and is well deserved.

The 10th District Spring Convention is going to be at Berkeley Post 14 on April 11th. I hope you plan to attend as this is one of the most important meetings of the two-year Auxiliary cycle. At this meeting you will vote for a new President and Vice-President.

Thought for the month: *"In order to live the life you love and love the life you live, you have to be willing to step on the other side of normal"* - Lisa Nichols

Lisa Turner
District 10 President



2015-2016 Candidates for Offices

Dept. President-Susan Wade Unit #86
Dept. 1st V.P.-Tammy Workman Unit#28
Dept. 2nd V.P.-
Dept. Sec/Treas.-Paulette Anderson #86
Dept. Chaplain-Rhonda Best-Unit #3
Dept. Historian-

2015-2016 Candidates for District

1st Dist. Pres.—
Vice Pres.—
3rd Dist. Pres.—Carla Wilfong Unit #31
Vice Pres.—
4th Dist. Pres.—Cathy Post Unit #67
5th Dist. Pres.—
Vice Pres.—
6th Dist. Pres.—
Vice Pres.—
8th Dist. Pres.—
Vice Pres.—
9th Dist. Pres.—
Vice Pres.—
10th Dist. Pres.-
Vice Pres.-

Endorsements On File.

2014-2015 Honorary Junior Officers

President—Katie Beth Caudill

1st V P— Taylor Bush

2nd V P— Despena O'Neill

Secretary— Lexie Nelson

Chaplain— Courtney King

Historian— Mary Grace Bannon



Historian

Hello Ladies,

We are already 2 months into the year 2015. I have received very little for the history of each unit. I am unable to give a full picture of what the Auxiliary in the State of WV is engaging in without your reports.

It is very important to write our history for each of our future members to look back upon.

Please send me everything your unit has reported in your history so far for the year 2014-2015.

God Bless,
Rhonda Best
Department Historian
Email: rlcbest37@aim.com



Education

Hello Ladies,

I hope everyone is staying warm and safe with the recent extreme cold and weather we have been having. Hopefully spring will arrive soon.

I hope everyone has worked their scholarships hard; March 1 is the dead line for most. I also hope Roxie and the committee receives lots of Department scholarships!!

If you have not gotten out in your local schools, or churches, Memorial Day will be here before you know it. Now, is the best time to start setting up dates to get an appointment to explain the meaning of Americas White Table or the poppy to young children. Arrange to have a veteran go to assist and answer questions. Or with Flag Day not far behind, consider setting up a date to go over Flag etiquette or the importance of proper disposal of an American Flag.

Lisa Cadwallader
Committee Member



Public Relations

Hello Ladies,

If you did not attend Mid-Winter, you missed a really good conference!! Ann planned a great agenda for us and our guest, Laura Mosby, the Central Division National Vice President had a whole speech!! Laura talked a lot about obtaining members, goals to reach the 1 million members by 2019, putting differences aside for the good of the organization and getting out in the PUBLIC and letting them know who we are, what we do and why it matters.

While out Mid-Winter, I handed out a few gift items to those who have sent articles in for Department Presidents Press Book. Ladies, I am ashamed to say, I at most have 4 to 5 articles to date. You are just not sending them to me or are you not getting the word out in the public?? If you need ideas and can't get them from my past new letter articles or you need help, please let me know. It is very important to promote who we are, what we do and why it matters!! I know each unit out there has done something good, let's just get it in the paper or something, please.

Lisa Cadwallader
Chairman
LisaC.ALA71@GMail.com

BE A LEADER!!!



Leadership

Ladies,

I am still feeling good about our Midwinter Conference. Our Central Division Vice President, Laura Mosby, gave us some great tips and information about the Centennial Plan that we are now working on. I know that the American Legion Auxiliary will reach the membership goal of ONE million members by 2019 if we all work together. We are the voice of tomorrow and we need to speak now. I would like to thank our presenters for their great job: in order of appearance

***Membership (Sharon Glassford and her team of Susan Wade and Tammy Workman)
***Junior Activities (Debbie Fox, member of the National Junior Activities Committee)
***Children & Youth (Beth Kilgore, department chairman)
***Rhododendron Girls State (Michelle Sirbaugh, Director and 2014 Governor Bonnie Walton from Charles Town)
***Duties & Responsibilities of District Officers & Chairman (Paulette Anderson)
***Leadership – Duties & Responsibilities of Officers & Chairman (Lisa Cadwallader, Central Division Leadership Chairman)
***Poppy Contests – Margaret Yost, Poppy Chairman
***Silent Auction – Roxie Nicholson, PDP
***Ways & Means – Rhonda Best, Chairman
***Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Comfort Drive – Mary Waybright, Chairman.

These ladies with our President Paula Booth made the Midwinter a success. I would like to thank each member who attended and participated in our conference. You are the reason that we strive to present this information to you. You need to decide how to use it.

Certificates will be presented at Department Convention for all Leadership Courses completed and submitted to me. This includes the course completed at the Midwinter Conference,

As we prepare for the election of new officers in our units, districts, and department, let us remember that each candidate deserves our respect. As you vote please take the time to consider what is best for the organization. We are all leaders in our own way to those that see us. Be a good example for anyone to follow.

Ann Buchanan
Leadership

Children and Youth

What a wonderful, informative and exciting Mid-Winter Conference. It was a pleasure to meet Laura Mosby, Central Division National Vice President. Laura, I hope you enjoyed West Virginia as much as West Virginia enjoyed having you with us.

APRIL IS CHILDREN AND YOUTH MONTH

I hope each of you are planning an activity to honor the children in your community or the children of our deployed warriors. There is so much you can do from planning a party for them to collecting movies and games to donate to the children's floor of your local hospital. Need some ideas, give me a call at 304-654-7750.

REMINDER:

Year End Reports due April 15th.

'The future depends on what we do in the present.' – Mahatma Gandhi

Beth Kilgore, Chairman
Children & Youth



WOW!!!!

You ladies are amazing.



As you can see, I have lost a lot of weight since Mid-Winter Conference. \$341.47 has been collected, so far, for the Child Welfare Foundation. And you have generously agreed to take your piggy banks back and fill them up again. They can be brought back to State Convention.

Keep up the fantastic work ladies.

Beth Kilgore
Child Welfare Foundation Chairman

Auxiliary Emergency Fund

URGENT:

It is of the utmost urgency that your Unit make a contribution to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) as soon as possible. If you have already donated, you might consider giving to the fund again. Due to the extreme weather especially in the northeast part of the country, funds are needed immediately to assist Unit members who have been experiencing weather extremes this winter.

AEF brochures and applications may be obtained from National Headquarters or downloaded at www.ALAFORVeterans.org. The application is also available at the Department web site. Be sure to follow the directions completely when and if applying for a grant. Any member of the Auxiliary who has maintained membership for three consecutive years is eligible to apply for a grant in a financial crisis.

Don't wait to donate to this worthy cause when a member might be in dire need of financial assistance. The funds just might not be there when needed if you don't donate now. The AEF will donate up to \$2,400 to eligible members, and applications are kept confidential. The applications are reviewed by a committee at National Headquarters and are processed weekly.
Mary Bess Chairman

Poppy

Hello Ladies,

I wish to thank the units that did the Poppy Poster. I received a total of four posters. The winner of the Poppy Poster contest was a Junior member from Earl Frances unit #3. We collected a total of \$112.51 for the Welfare Fund. I want to remind everyone to use their poppies. We have St Patrick's day, birthday dinners and Easter coming up, so try to think of a way to use the poppy in these events. We have year-end reports coming up soon, so be thinking about them, don't forget your narrative.

If any Department Officer is going to the DC Conference, please stop by the table set up by the National Poppy Committee, where they will be making poppy lapel boutonnieres and corsages for the Senators and Representatives.
Margaret Yost
Poppy Chairman

Americanism

Our American Flag and Funeral Homes



This is some information that we need to talk with our Funeral Home Directors about: **Veterans Funeral Care**

All veterans deserve and are entitled to the most dignified funeral arrangements possible. Although the business serves the funeral needs of everyone, its specialty is working with the families of veterans. Strict rules for disposing of a U.S. flag. The flag must be presented to the family, burned not tossed into the kitchen garbage can. Also know that many veterans are opting to be cremated rather than buried in a cemetery, even at National cemeteries.

By placing a U.S. flag over the body of a veteran to be cremated, it would be a final tribute to both the veteran and the flag. It's the final patriotic duty to the flag to be cremated with the veteran. Since metal is not allowed in the cremation chamber ask the funeral director if he would cut out the grommets for you to keep. Tell the family of the deceased veteran what you think about idea of their loved one being cremated covered by an American flag.

Education and training is provided on veterans' burial policies and arrangements, U.S. flag protocols for disposing of flags and use in funerals and also counseling with family members of veterans. Part of the Funeral Director involvement is educating family members on funeral arrangements for veterans. This should be a responsibility that they take very seriously. All veterans deserve and are entitled to the most dignified funeral arrangements possible.

We should educate funeral home directors and family members on funeral arrangements for veterans. This should be a responsibility we take very seriously.

Patricia Moore
Americanism Chairman

Girls State Chairman

Hello, Ladies,

As winter is in full force I am hoping spring is just around the corner as is our 2015 Girls State Session!

If someone from your Unit attended Mid-Winter Conference they should have received the packet of information on the 2015 session. If not they will be mailed to the Girls State Chairmen or your Unit President. Please start working on getting your girls ready for Rhododendron Girls State.

This years' session will be held Monday, June 22nd – Saturday, June 27th at Wheeling Jesuit University, Wheeling, WV. Cost: \$200.00

Our theme is:

Our Veterans, Our Military, Our Heroes! Giving back to those who served!

Fittingly, our special project is our Welfare Fund.

Please let Girls State Director Michelle Sirbaugh or Assistant Director Rosemary Thomas know if anyone has any recommendations for junior, senior counselors, office personnel or speakers. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me or your district representative. Stay warm and think Spring!!!

Lynda Lancaster
Chairman



American Legion Auxiliary WV Rhododendron Girls State

Girls State Representatives

1st Dist. — Susan Brown
2172 Grandview Rd.
Moundsville WV 26041
845-5122

3rd Dist. — Mary Jo Thomas
RR6 Box 232
Fairmont WV 26554
366-2912

4th Dist. — Nancy Sundstrom
1307 23rd Street
Parkersburg WV 26101
422-1263

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. — Paula Booth
RR1 Box 222
Belington WV 26250
823-3251

10th Dist. — Lynda Lancaster
PO Box 1037
Ranson WV 25438
676-3979

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Letters have been mailed to all high school principals with information about Rhododendron Girls State. The schools should have received the letter prior to February 9, 2015. If a school says that they have not received a letter, please check with the principal. Each unit has a copy of the letter and information sent to the schools; please share if necessary. I will mail or email a copy if any school needs one.

The informational packet with application numbers have been mailed to all units that did not pick up the packet at the Midwinter Conference. These packets were mailed to the President of the units using labels provided by Paulette Anderson, Department Secretary. The units should have received these packets before this issue of the SPIRIT.

American Legion Auxiliary
Rhododendron Girls State
Ann Buchanan, Registrar

Rhododendron Girls State

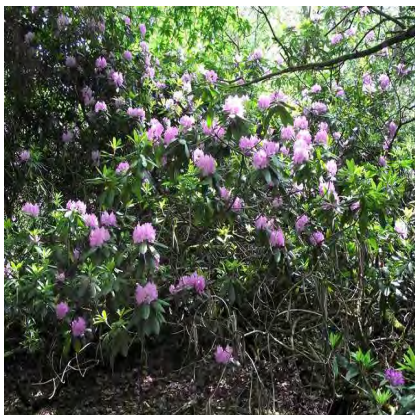
Girls State Session

June 22— June 27, 2015

Wheeling Jesuit University

Wheeling West Virginia

***Start Lining Up Sponsors
now for your Unit***



VA & R

Last week we completed our Comfort Item Drive. I want to express my gratitude for its success. We raised \$10,475 worth of items for our veterans in the four VA Hospitals and the WV Veterans Home. Thank you everyone who brought items, delivered, helped pack boxes and/or delivered from Martinsburg to your hospital. The success I mentioned without you would not have been possible. If anyone who didn't attend Midwinter and haven't delivered their comfort items yet, contact me at 304-736-6484 or 638-7665. I am sure Department President Paula wants a complete total for her annual report.

There was an article on the Creative Arts Festival in the last National Magazine. This is sponsored by our National Organization with donations from Units through Departments. Has your Unit made a donation?

Hope the Units near a VA Hospital was able to recognize "National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week." It never needs to be anything elaborate. Just a visit and "Thank You For Your Service" is always appropriate.

Don't forget our Homeless Veterans with the sub-zero temperatures. I hope you look for a way for your Unit to help them stay warm in your community.

Mary Waybright
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

There will be a Paint n Sip at the Moundsville Post #3 upstairs on Saturday February 28th

This is in honor of the National Commander Mike Helm's wife and sponsored by Moundsville Unit #3

Cost is \$35.00 each

For more Information contact Rhonda Best, President Unit #3 by Monday February 23rd.

2015 January Ways & Means Winners

2015 WAYS-N-MEANS WINNERS				
NAME	LOCATION	WINNING #	DATE	AMT PAID
Terry Isler	Romney, WV	364	1/1/15	\$100.00
ALA Unit #16	Huntington, WV	450	1/2/15	\$25.00
		947	1/3/15	
		810	1/5/15	
		723	1/6/15	
		603	1/7/15	
		541	1/8/15	
Joseph P. Smith	Vienna, WV	502	1/9/15	\$25.00
Tom Trevor	East Liverpool, OH	686	1/10/15	\$25.00
Lillian Largent	Romney, WV	489	1/12/15	\$25.00
J.R. Puffinburger	Romney, WV	433	1/13/15	\$25.00
Jean A. Pyle	McMechen, WV	456	1/14/15	\$200.00
Yvonne Sentner	Pittsburgh, PA	844	1/15/15	\$25.00
Donna Davis	Romney, WV	389	1/16/15	\$25.00
		741	1/17/15	
Janet Helman	Purgitsville, WV	422	1/19/15	\$25.00
James D. Hott	Springfield, WV	518	1/20/15	\$25.00
		510	1/21/15	
		917	1/22/15	
		872	1/23/15	
		151	1/24/15	
		981	1/26/15	
Cheryl Supowit	Neldham, MS	233	1/27/15	\$25.00
		894	1/28/15	
Carlton Davis	Keyser, WV	709	1/29/15	\$25.00
Katena Karnes	Huntington, WV	525	1/30/15	\$25.00
		087	1/31/15	

Winners at Midwinter Conference

Silent Auction Basket

Collected \$565.00

Winner—Joy Potts, Unit #14

Silent Auction collected \$663.00 from Donations

Past President's Cash Drawing

Collected \$330.00

Winner—Received \$165.00 Lisa Turner, Unit #14

Poppy Poster Contest collected \$112.51

Winner of Poster: Moundsville Unit #3

ALCWF "Fat Piggy" collected \$341.47

Department Comfort Drive collected over \$10,000 worth of items/checks for the VA Hospitals and WV Veterans Home!!

AGAIN WE CAME THROUGH AND HELPED OUR VETERANS!!!

Thanks to Roxie Nicholson, PDP, for stepping in for Shirley Davis for Silent Auction

Thanks to Nancy Plants for your help!!

MEMBERSHIP 2014-2015 “Welcoming Our Members”



Target 7—February 15th—90%

Department Goal— 7271 National Goal—8083

Department Membership to Date—6168 (84.83 %)

Unit #200— 88 Active Units in Department—65
(National %== (76.31 %))



District 1			
Unit	2015 Goal	2015	% of Goal
Wheeling #1	21	11	52.38%
Moundsville #3	305	252	82.62%
McMechen #5	58	55	94.83%
Weirton #10	80	58	72.50%
Cameron #18	200	169	85.00%
New Martinsville #28	140	123	8.86%
Wellsburg #34	32	24	75.00%
Follansbee #45	58	39	67.24%
Benwood #46	99	86	86.87%
Pine Grove #81	90	83	92.22%
Paden City #86	113	114	100.88%
Wheeling #89	36	16	44.44%
Newell #114	49	25	51.02%
Hundred #120	77	69	89.61%
Chester #121	150	143	95.33%
TOTALS	1280	1267	98.98%

District 4			
Unit	2015 Goal	2015	% of Goal
Parkersburg #15	859	768	89.41%
Spencer #21	59	41	69.49%
Pt. Pleasant #23	345	324	93.91%
Sistersville #67	184	109	59.24%
Parkersburg #104	15	11	73.33%
New Haven #140	159	122	76.73%
Williamstown #159	180	150	83.33%
TOTALS	1801	1525	84.68%

District 6			
Unit	2015 Goal	2015	% of Goal
Welch #8	82	69	84.15%
Bluefield #9	34	22	64.71%
Beckley #32	39	39	100.00%
Gary #38	76	65	85.53%
TOTALS	231	195	84.42%

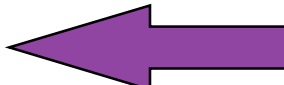
District 9			
Unit	2015 Goal	2015	% of Goal
Elkins #29	206	165	80.10%
Cowen #62	50	33	66.00%
Lewisburg #69	79	61	72.22%
Belington #96	35	34	97.14%
Richwood #97	27	19	70.37%
Pickens #122	28	13	46.43%
TOTALS	425	325	76.47%

District 3			
Unit	2015 Goal	2015	% of Goal
Buckhannon #7	61	51	83.61%
Grafton #12	26	12	46.15%
Clarksburg #13	143	133	92.31%
Shinnston #31	307	268	87.30%
Braxton Co. #33	31	24	77.42%
Mannington #40	23	18	78.26%
Philippi #44	34	29	85.29%
Bridgeport #68	47	31	65.96%
Jane Lew #166	52	32	61.54%
Morgantown #174	23	20	86.96%
TOTALS	747	618	82.73%

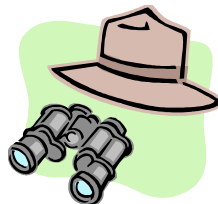
District 5			
Unit	2015 Goal	2015	% of Goal
Huntington #16	264	234	88.64%
Logan #19	16	12	75.00%
Ceredo-Kenova #93	418	318	76.08%
Hamlin #111	54	43	79.63%
Milton #139	84	64	76.19%
Barboursville #177	167	103	61.68%
TOTALS	1003	774	77.17%

District 8			
Unit	2015 Goal	2015	% of Goal
Charleston #20	49	26	53.06%
St Albans #73	70	51	72.86%
South Charleston #94	26	19	73.08%
TOTALS	145	96	66.21%

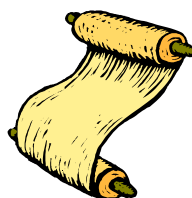
District 10			
Unit	2015 Goal	2015	% of Goal
Martinsburg #14	155	116	74.84%
Franklin #30	22	18	81.82%
Piedmont #52	60	26	43.33%
Berkeley Springs #60	255	202	79.22%
Moorefield #64	124	89	71.77%
Charles Town #71	250	225	90.00%
Petersburg #78	95	77	81.05%
Romney #91	259	208	80.31%
Charles Town #102	20	13	65.00%
Paw Paw #128	74	47	63.51%
Kirby #134	50	41	82.00%
Ridgeley #136	99	75	75.76%
Capon Bridge #137	130	96	73.85%
Keyser #152	51	47	92.16%
TOTALS	1644	1280	77.86%



“Torch Lighter”
Goal—3737
To Date—3312
(88.63 %)



“Tablet Writer”
Goal—3539
To Date—2768
(78.21 %)







American Legion Auxiliary
Department of West Virginia



March

Community Service
Auxiliary Emergency Fund

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 Clarksburg #13 Birthday Dinner	7 3rd District Spring Conf. Clarksburg #13 Bridgeport #68 B-Day Dinner
8 Spring Forward!! Shinnston #31 Birthday Dinner	9	10	11	12	13 Mail Call	14
15 Target #8 95%	16	17 Articles Due St. Patrick's Day 	18	19	20 Spirit Out Hospital Checks Mailed Spring Begins 	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Mail Call	28
29 Palm Sunday	30	31				

State Newsletter "Auxiliary SPIRIT"

MAIL TO:
The American Legion Auxiliary
Department of West Virginia
1251 Doolin Run Road
New Martinsville WV 26155

Purchase/Renew Your Subscription!

Make check payable to:
Dept. Treasurer, ALA

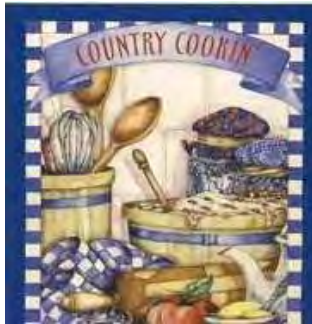
NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS OR PO BOX:-----

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS (FREE ISSUE) _____

WHO RECEIVES SPIRIT: Emailed to all **Unit Contacts** and any **Unit Officers** with an email address. It is emailed to **All Department Officers, Department Chairmen, District Presidents/Vice Presidents, Past Department Presidents** with emails. Spirits are posted monthly on the website: www.wvaux.org Unit Presidents **with no email contact** will receive a free copy.



Cookbook sales are an ongoing project that will continue to put much needed dollars into the Veteran's Fund. Get your cookbooks today! Buy some as gifts! The recipes are the best kind – Tried & True!

I want to purchase ____cookbooks and have the cookbooks mailed to:

Make checks payable to: **Department Treasurer, ALA**
Mail to: ALA Department of WV
1251 Doolin Run Road
New Martinsville WV 26155 –7808

97TH Annual State Convention
2015
ADVERTISING FORM

The American Legion
Department of West Virginia, Inc.

I hereby authorize the following advertisement to be placed in the official program of the 97th Annual State Convention of The American Legion, Department of West Virginia, Inc., scheduled July 9-11, 2015, at Ramada Inn, Morgantown, West Virginia.

Date: _____, 2015

Name of Post/Unit/SAL

Please specify exactly how your ad should read. Only the information you supply will be published. An attached copy of your ad is very helpful. Be sure to state if Legion, Auxiliary, or SAL Emblem is requested.

Ad should read as follows:

Authorized Signature: _____

Price List:	Full Page	\$100	Full Page (Color)	\$160
	Half Page	\$60	Half Page (Color)	\$100
	Quarter Page	\$35	Quarter Page (Color)	\$70
	Eighth Page	\$25	Eighth Page (Color)	\$ 50

Please send your ad along with a check made payable to: **The American Legion**
P.O. Box 3191
Charleston, WV 25332

Ad and Payment Deadline is June 5, 2015.
No Deviation

2015 STATE CONVENTION
RESERVATION FORM

July 9-11, 2015
Ramada Inn
20 Scott Avenue
Morgantown, West Virginia 26508

\$77.00 per night room rate (plus 12% tax)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

E-mail _____

Arrival Date _____ AM PM Departure Date _____

Room Type: (circle one) Doubles King

Non-Smoking Facility

Handicap Room: (circle one) wheelchair oxygen tank other

If you circled "other", please explain _____

*Members with wheelchair disabilities will receive first priority.

One night's deposit must accompany this request to reserve a room. Any form without a deposit will be returned. Enclosed, please find one night's room deposit of \$77.00 (plus 12% tax) = \$86.24 per night

(circle one)

check cash credit card

_____ credit card # _____

type _____

expiration date _____

Your credit card may be charged for the one night's room deposit.

Mail to: Ramada Inn
 ATTN: Kate
 20 Scott Avenue
 Morgantown, West Virginia 26508

This form must be mailed to reserve a room at The Ramada Inn.

(No phone calls for rooms will be accepted.)

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER EARLY- THANKS!

CANCELLATION MUST BE 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE TO RECEIVE REFUND.



A Great Tool for All Posts, Auxiliaries, and Squadrons!!

You can add your own brochures.

Includes One Cardboard Kit, and 100 Brochures for \$60.00

Order Online at www.alaforveterans.org