



The Auxiliary Spirit



Volume 29

March 2016

Issue 8



American Legion Auxiliary
2015-2016
Department President
Susan Wade



**Our Veterans
"Depend" on You**

Hello Ladies!

I want to Thank everyone who was able to attend Mid-Winter Conference! I thought it was a great success!! A big Thank you to our Membership Team!! They did an awesome job on the luncheon! They really went all out to make the luncheon fun and informative!! Thank You Sharon Glassford, our Leadership Chairman for the program! I hope everyone was able to take back valuable information to share at Unit meetings!!

Thank you to all that donated to our Auction on Friday night and those that bid to make this a huge success! Our Rhododendron Girls State and Mountaineer Boy State Programs Thank you for your support!!

I want to Thank all those that also supported our annual Silent Auction on Saturday, which was also a success! There were so many wonderful items brought for both auctions!! Again, Thank You All!!

I want to Thank all Units that brought Comfort Items!! Our Veterans appreciate all you do for them! Thank you to those that participated in the Poppy Posters!

I want to Thank Katie Mossburg, our 2015 Girls State Governor, from Bridgeport for attending and giving a very informative and inspirational speech! She is a remarkable young lady!!

A big Thank You to our very own Central Division National Vice President Lynda Lancaster for attending and giving an awesome speech!! We are so proud of you Lynda!!

I am looking forward to our trip to Washington D.C. The weather is supposed to be good, so that is a plus and I will have great room mates, Paulette, Betty Rea, and Debbie Fox!!

I am looking forward to attending Spring Conferences and Birthday Dinners! I am planning on attending them all unless there is more than one on the same day!!

I am so proud of our American Legion Family and look forward to the next few months of my term as your Department President!!

"Our Veterans Depend on You!!
Susan Wade
Department President



Department Officers 2015-2016

President—Susan Wade
1st Vice President—Tammy Workman
2nd Vice President—Lisa Cadwallader
Secretary/Treasurer—Paulette Anderson
Chaplain—Rhonda Best
Historian—Irene Weber

District Presidents

1st District—Donna Freeland
3rd District—Carla Wilfong
4th District—Cathy Post
5th District—Beth Kilgore
6th District—Peggy Swartz
8th District—Mary Bess
9th District—Susan Cook
10th District—Sharon Glassford

District Vice Presidents

1st District—Donna Leek
3rd District—Roxie Nicholson
4th District—Nancy Sundstrom
5th District—JoAnn Hastings
6th District—Rita Alley
8th District—Rose Reese
9th District—Pat Calain
10th District—Sharon Kauffman

Remember Our Friends

Thank you members, units, and Districts for your thoughts and cards.

Connie Pyles

Past Department Historian

Kirby Unit #134

Mary Ann Myers', Past Ways & Means Co-Chairman, member of McMechen Unit #5, son David Wendell, passed away from cancer. Cards may be sent to:

Mary Ann Myers

137 Ross Drive

Glen Dale WV 26038

Department Headquarters—Juggler



Mission Statement

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

Mandatory Funds: Bonding, Education, Girls State, Veterans 1st Fund, Poppy Order, and 10% Poppies Proceeds. They are due each year by July 31st to be a Unit in good year. Make checks payable to **"Department Treasurer, ALA"** Units that haven't paid their 2015 Mandatory Funds are: Mannington Unit #40, Lewisburg Unit #69.

Membership Remember to put Junior Birthdates on new applications. All applications must be signed by Post Adj. NOT MEMBER OR SECRETARY). Only exception is if a female veteran is joining the Auxiliary under herself. THEN the Secretary may sign the application. National is waiving the \$9.00 fee again this year for New Female Veterans. You must put "Honor Our Women Veterans" at top of application to get the credit for your Unit.

On February 1st if you send in dues for 2015 only, they will be counted for 2016 year. This comes from National.

Please limit your article to no more than 250 words as you have only one column to use. Spirit is limited to 20 pages (including front and back) to send. At times I have to add different pages (ex. quarterly reports, forms, etc.)

Midwinter has come and gone. Thank you units who attended, participated in all the fundraisers, attended the luncheon. Appreciate All You Do!!!

Birthday Dinners are upcoming: If you wish the Department to attend please contact them ASAP so they can make their arrangements.

Spring Conferences

**3rd District—Joint
Shinnston Post #31
March 12, 2016**

**10th District—Joint
Berkeley Springs Post #60
April 2, 2016**

**5th District—Joint
Ceredo-Kenova Post #93
April 9, 2016**

**4th District—Joint
Parkersburg Post #15
April 10, 2016**

**8th District
South Charleston Unit #94
TBA
April 16, 2016**

**6th District
Bluefield Unit #9
TBA
April 23, 2016**

**1st District
Cameron Unit #18
TBA
April 24, 2016**

**9th District—Joint
Elkins Post #29
May 7, 2016**

Please Mark Your Calendars



Department Headquarters

Office Hours: Monday-Friday
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Office Phone 304-455-5007
Toll Free 1-888-604-2242
Fax: 304-455-5825
Available 24 hours

Mailing Address

1251 Doolin Run Road
New Martinsville WV 26155-7808

Department Headquarters Website

www.wvaux.org

Email: alawvsec@frontier.com

Rhododendron Girls State Website

www.wvgirlsstate.org

Department American Legion

wvlegion@suddenlinkmail.com

National Auxiliary Website

alaforveterans.org

2016-2017 Department Candidates

President—Tammy Workman
1st Vice Pres.—Lisa Cadwallader
2nd Vice Pres.—Rhonda Best
Sec/Treas.—Paulette Anderson
Chaplain—
Historian—

2016-2017 District Candidates

1st Dist. Pres.—
Vice Pres.—
3rd Dist. Pres.—
Vice Pres.—
4th Dist. Pres.—
Vice Pres.—
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.—

Filling The Big Top With Members



Membership Chairman

What a great leadership conference – Thanks Sharon!

Here is a list of the challenges that were made for February 1st.

***10th Challenged 1st – Most new members by 2/1 – 10th District 65 – 1st District – 51;

***3rd Challenged 9th – Most membership by 2/1 – 3rd District 569 – 9th District – 298;

***4th Challenged 5th – Most new members by 2/1 – 4th District 54 – 5th District – 31;

***6th Challenged 8th – Most membership by 2/1 – 6th District – 161 – 8th District – 55;

Those Districts that have lost remember to pay your \$25.00 to RGS. Next announcement for challenges winners/losers will be at Department convention.

Membership has slowed way down. The last reminder from National was sent in January. It is time now for each unit to send out past due notice, or set-up a phone bank and call the members that have not paid.

Target 6 is March 15, lots of time yet to make the 80%.

Until next month – Happy Spring!!!!!!

Susan Brown
Membership Chairman
“Just a swing”



1st Vice President

Hello everyone!

It's time to put on your big smiles because spring is just around the corner.

I hope that all of you who attended the mid-winter conference enjoyed the programs and shared the info with your units. We also hope everyone who attended the membership luncheon had as much fun as we did. Our clowns were fantastic and gave us plenty of goodwill and smiles to take home and share.

Here in the Lions Den we had four units who earned special certificates for meeting my challenge of gaining 75% or more of their Goals by December 31st. Fantastic work ladies!!! As for our current Target #6 we have only 3 units who made the 80% target, Jane Lew #166, Romney #91 and Charles Town # 102 has reached Goal. Congratulations!!!! We do have several units who were close, great job ladies!

Our Lions still have a few units who do not have 10 senior members paid for 2016. Our membership team can only help you if you respond to our outreach efforts. Please **Do Not Hold Dues!!!** Your members trust you to forward their membership dues into Department and in good faith it is your duty to do so in a timely manner. There are no excuses for holding dues! If we can help please let us know.

Our Veterans Depend on us so we need to work harder to keep our units strong.

I am planning to attend several spring conferences and I hope every district has a great turn out.

For God and Country
Tammy Workman
Dept. 1st Vice President
AKA- Lion Keeper



2nd Vice President

Hello Ladies,

Hope you enjoyed the mid-winter luncheon, membership program and the wonderful treat bags. Our district vices did a fantastic job clowning around!! Let us know what you thought, please.

Elephant's we are doing a great job; we are still ahead of the Lions in both numbers and percentage. Keep up the great work. Congratulation to Richwood #97 for being the first unit in the Elephant's to not only reach but pass 100% and the 102%. A few of you are close to our next target of 80%.

102% Award from Nation:

Units that reach 102% of their annual target set by National Headquarters by 30 days prior to National Convention (July 30, 2016) will receive \$150 plus a 102% flag pole ribbon. The unit president, secretary and membership chair will also receive a special gift from the National President. Checks will be made payable to the unit to be used for mission outreach and/or membership efforts.

Keeping the promise:

March: I promise to breathe life into our organization

Members Helping Members: Spring is in the air! And so are spring storms! The American Legion Auxiliary Emergency Fund offers assistance to members whose lives are affected by natural disasters. Donate today to help fellow auxiliary members in need!

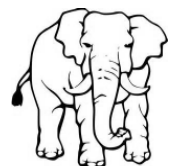
Promise Date: Legion Birthday, March 15, 2016 – 80%

April: I promise to plant the seed of membership

Watch our Membership Grow: Plant the seed in your community by starting a new unit. Is there a post in your area? Attach a new unit to it and watch the community thrive!

Promise Date: Earth Day, April 22, 2016 – 85%

Lisa Cadwallader
Dept. 2nd Vice
The Elephant Trainer
LisaC.Ala71@Gmail.com
240-271-8385



1st District President

Hello Ladies

I was glad to see all at Mid-Winter Conference. I got to go to some of the meetings. Hope that everyone had a good time.

Hope everyone took a copy of the test back to their Unit to give out at meetings and have some fun with it to see what the member knows and if they listen too.

I would like to thank the membership chairmen for all they do.

Lets remember to check on our Veterans' and each other during this bitter cold.

God Bless everyone
Donna Freeland

1st District Vice President

Hello Ladies,

Hope everyone is staying warm. Sorry for the ones that didn't make it to Mid-Winter. We had new member there. We missed the snow this year, ha ha.

Keep up the good work with membership. I know it is hard work. But we can do it as a team. If I can help let me know. I will do my best to help.

I like to thank everyone for the cards and prayer for my daughter Donna.

Everything went well. She is doing better and most of all cancer free.

God Bless All
1st District Vice President
Donna Leek

4th District Spring Conference
Parkersburg Post #15
April 10, 2016

Cost: \$10.00 per Auxiliary member

If you are going to pay when you get at Conference please send me a count of members, that will be attending.

Send your list to me:
Nancy Sundstrom Unit #15 President
1307 23rd Street
Parkersburg, W. V. 26101
Phone # 304-422-1263

3rd District President

Just think Spring is just around the corner, so lets put a spring in our step and get out there and recruit new Members for the American Legion Auxiliary.

I would like to say shame on you. Here we just had Mid-Winter Conference in our District Third for the Auxiliary and Second for the Legionnaires. The Auxiliary had only three Units from our District there, and believe it we all road together and roomed together. Where were you?

Third District Spring Conference will be held at Shinnston Post 31 on March 12th. Hope to see everyone there. We have a lot to discuss.

If you need my help, please call me at 304-592-0247 or 304-592-2186, or you can e-mail me at carlajwilfong@yahoo.com

God Bless our Country and our Troops
Carla Wilfong
Third District President

3rd District Vice President

Ladies of the Third District,

I am very disappointed in how Membership is coming in. We cannot afford to lose any Units by not sending the dues in, in a timely manner. If a member pays their dues and you hold it, then they are not a member in good standing and cannot use any of their benefits. Please, please, please send those dues in and please make sure you have at least 10 senior members.

Roxie Nicholson
Third District Vice President

Third District Spring Conference
Shinnston Post #31

March 12th, 2016

Registration will begin at 9:00 am
Cost will be \$8.00.

4th District President

Hello my Sisters,

Still winter...I don't know about you but I'm really looking forward to Spring!

I want to thank Madam President Susan, Secretary/Treasurer Paulette and all that were responsible for a wonderful Mid-Winter conference. Martinsburg Honor Guard again brought tears to my eyes. I am always so proud to stand up to honor my family that served and are still serving with each of branch flags. If you missed it this year, you missed a lot.

Ladies as spring approaches please make sure you are working all your programs, we have a lot coming up, Girls State, plans for Memorial Day programs in your schools/communities and MEMBERSHIP. You want a great Unit ?.... encourage a busy woman to join. Brand yourself and get out in the public with a membership drive.

Speaking of membership, Our District Vice President Nancy Sundstrom has been under the weather I want to wish her a speedy recovery. We need to dig in and help her meet our next target.

Be planning on attending Spring conference in Parkersburg at Post 15 on April 10th. I encourage you to bring as many ladies as possible to this one, get those reservations in. Please have some good unit reports ready to share, you still have plenty of time to accomplish a lot.

For God and Country,
Cathy Post

4th District Vice President

Hello Fourth District Ladies:

Sorry I missed you at Mid-Winter, I was having some medical problems with my lungs. I received good news from my doctor every thing is going good now. She will be keeping a close watch on my lungs to make sure they stay healthy. I do thank God for the good news.

Membership Chairmen, you are doing a good job with collecting your membership dues. I hope you are working with your unit members to bring in new members to our great organization the American Legion Auxiliary. Thank you for the great job you are doing ladies.

GOD BLESS YOU
Nancy Sundstrom
4th District Vice President

5th District President

If you attended the Mid-Winter Conference in Morgantown the weekend of Feb 5th & 6th, I hope you enjoyed the program presented by Sharon Glassford. The Comfort Item Drive, Silent Auction and Poppy Contest were all exciting and worthy of your participation. This year an auction was held on Friday night to benefit Rhododendron Girls State and Mountaineer Boys State. Thank you for your participation, it was a huge success! Ask Jo Ann Hastings about her afternoon as a clown.

I would like to have 100% Unit attendance from the 5th District for the State Convention in July. It will be held in Huntington, so plan now to attend.

Keep those memberships coming in. You are doing a fabulous job and I know President Susan appreciates all of your hard work.

It is not too early to be thinking about our Spring Conference that will be held at Ceredo-Kenova on April 9th. Make plans now to attend.

Remember your Unit's year end awards are due to Department by April 15th. Start working on them now. Let the rest of the Department know all of the fantastic work you are doing in your communities.

God Bless America!!
Beth Kilgore
5th District President

5th District Vice President

Hello Ladies,

I hope everyone is keeping warm in this cold weather.

If you could not make it to the Mid-Winter conference in Morgantown WV you missed out on a very good conference.

I want to thank the ladies that called me back when I called them to ask them how they were doing in membership.

Ladies I know this is a slow time of the year so please don't stop working on membership. One thing I want to say is do not hold membership back for a month please get them as soon as you get the dues in. Some units have been complaining about this issue.

Keep warm and god bless
JoAnn Hastings
Fifth District Vice President

10th District President

Hello Ladies,

I think that we are all tired of snow. So in saying that, Spring conference is approaching.

Place is Berkeley Springs, Saturday April 2th REGISTRATION IS 8-9. Paper work has gone out. Make sure you return as soon as you can. Just as reminder there is a deadline. I included the self-address envelopes for returning to the proper person.

Please send me the deceased member list. This is for the Memorial Service. Linda Ballard needs to have them for the service.

District Committee Chairman please have year end reports.

Unit Presidents please be ready to give your reports for what your units have done this year.

Mid - Winter was a good conference. 54 took the Jr. Leadership course. I will have the test course available for you at 10th District. Lynda Lancaster was our Distinguish Guest. This was great to have Linda with us at Midwinter. For those that do not know; Linda is Central Division National Vice President.

I look forward to seeing all at Berkeley Springs for 10th District Conference. Dept. President Susan, Sec/Treas. Paulette, 1st Vice President Tammy and 2nd Vice President Lisa will also be joining our Conference.

God Bless America.

Remember Our Veterans Depend On Us
Sharon Glassford
10th District President

10th District Vice President

I would like to thank all of you who answered and called back.

Everyone's membership is coming in but slow. Just keep mailing in as soon as you get them.

District 10 won the challenge against District 1. The challenge was for the most new members so District 1 had to pay Girl State \$25.00.

For those who didn't make it to Midwinter we had a blast.

So keep up the good job.

Hope to see you at Spring Conference in Berkeley Springs.

Thank you
Sharon Kauffman
District 10 Vice President

Americanism—Program of Month



Hello my fellow Americans, Americanism, Americanism, Americanism....receiving only one report for mid year was disappointing. Let's get out in our schools and teach our children the meaning of our flag, the constitution and our Veterans. Be getting your Memorial Day programs into the school teachers. Make sure you include colorings, drawings and essays. Post them in businesses in your area for the children to see that you appreciate their hard work.

The Peace Corps was established by President John F. Kennedy on March 1, 1961 Order 10924.

March the 2nd is Read Across America Day, chose a short story or poem pertaining to American history, buy some of those very small flags to hand out and go read to classes in your local schools. You may be speaking to a future Veteran.

March 3, 1931 The Star Spangled Banner became the US National Anthem.

March 4, 1801 Thomas Jefferson becomes the first US president inaugurated in Washington, DC.

March 8, 1884 Susan B. Anthony asks Congress for an amendment allowing women the right to vote, sponsor a GET OUT TO VOTE/Meet Your Candidate night.

March 11, 1993 Janet Reno becomes the first female Attorney General of the United States. WE women can do anything we set our mind to.

March 23, 1775 Patrick Henry delivers his famous speech "give me liberty or give me death!"

March 27, 1794 United States Navy founded.

Finally March is Women's History Month....Let's make history in our American Legion Auxiliary, show them who you are and what you do.

I'm cheering you on!!!
Service not self
Cathy Post
Americanism Chairman



Auxiliary Emergency Fund

Ladies,

I don't know about you but boy am I ready for spring and warmer weather.

However, along with that come other forms of natural disasters that cause Auxiliary members to need assistance. If you have not done some form of fundraising for AEF now is the time to start.

A West Virginia member did need assistance and received it last year. Now is the time for us to give back.

This is also the National Presidents special project this year.

Lisa Cadwallader

AEF Chairman

LisaC.ALA71@Gmail.com

240-271-8385

Children and Youth

Hello Ladies,

Well for those that didn't attend Mid-winter you really missed a good conference. Sharon Glassford, Leadership Chairman, made it possible for attendees to take the Junior Leadership course. What an amazing experience. During the conference a collection of change from the Child Welfare Foundation piggy banks. We received over \$150. Thank you to everyone for your dedication to our children. We'll be collecting money again at our department convention in July.

As all the snow begins to melt it reminds us that spring isn't far away. As spring approaches you need to remember that April is Children and Youth month. And time to do something special for the children in your community. Sponsor a game night at your post home or even a movie night. Have snacks, door prizes and it could even be a well earned free evening for some stressed parents. During this evening it would be a great opportunity to work on your "Star Spangled Kids" or maybe even explore your "Youth Hero/Good Deed Awards".

We have so many aspects of this program that we can all do something to contribute to our goal.

Until Next Time,
Debbie Fox

Community Service

Hello Ladies,

Was glad to see several members at Mid-winter Conference.

Several American Legion Posts will be having their Birthday Dinner, get involved.

St. Patrick's Day is coming up March 17th. If your community has a parade get involved. Get a group together from your post and be in the parade, be sure to wear the American Legion Auxiliary brand.

Easter will be March 27th, put on a party for the children of the post or community. Wear the Auxiliary brand.

Remember to visit the hospitals and nursing home at these times with small gifts for the patients. Visit a home bound veteran or auxiliary member.

Be thinking of your year end report and a narrative.

Thank You

Margaret Yost

Community Service Chairman

Constitution & Bylaws

Hope of those who were there at Mid-Winter conference found the Leadership program informative.

Betty and I were able to go over 3 of the 5 C&B that were turned in. They were returned with suggestions or changes to be made. Please remember if you are updating your unit's C&B please make sure that this statement is included "We have reviewed and found not to be in conflict with National and Department Constitution & Bylaws". This goes where Paulette and I signs off.

National is asking that all Departments consider making the NEC a two year term. There has been 13 Department since Mid-July of 2015 make the necessary changes to the C&B, and now have at least a 2 year term. The ALA's external auditor Mike Alerding and National executive director/National Secretary Dubbie Buckler are advocating for the increase in the term that an NEC services. Sue Britton and Dubbie Buckler have written Benefits of National Executive Committee Members Serving Longer than a Single One-Year Term. This document can be viewed online at www.ALAforVeterans.org/Members/Constitution&Bylaws/

This is all food for thought.

Susan Brown, PDP

C&B Chairman

Education

Hi Ladies,

I hope you all enjoyed Mid-Winter and were able to take something interesting back to your unit. It's especially enjoyable when we have visitors from National.

One of the goals of Education is to assist and support military children in your local classrooms or a child whose family member is deployed. Once a child is identified, you can offer individual tutoring or provide help in whatever area he/she needs it.

For the schools, you can provide materials and information of a free tutoring website for military children (www.tutor.com/military), provide a copy of the "Educator's Guide to the Military Child During Deployment" (from the www2.ed.gov website), collaborate with the Legion Family or other organization to hold a fundraiser to raise funds for a scholarship for a military child, or organize a classroom event for military children to share accomplishments of their service member.

Providing support for the military child is an important part of the Education Program.

Linda Crumm

Education Committee Member

Legislative

Good morning Ladies, I hope everyone is working on their end of the year reports. I hope everyone sends a report this year. Please remember to fill out a narrative for each and every report sent in.

Please be sure to keep contacting your State and National Representatives concerning our Veterans. It was nice seeing Senator Manchin at Mid-Winter. He is always willing to bend over backwards for our Veterans. So is you need help he is willing to help you.

Remember to keep the Promise. Participate, Research, Open, Magic of the Blue Cap, Invest, share, and electronically Report. If you would like more information concerning this please contact me and I will send it to you.

If you need my help contact me at my phone number or email.

God Bless our Country and Troops

Carla Wilfong,

Legislative Chairman

Department Chaplain

Hello Ladies,

Mid-Winter was an informative and enjoyable experience. For those of you that could not attend you were greatly missed.

We will be working on things for the Summer Convention in July now. So I am calling on all District and Unit Chaplains to email me your list of deceased members for the year 2015-2016. Please send this as soon as possible.

As we continue to build upon our Legion Family please keep in mind the quote below:

*Then join hand in hand,
brave Americans all!
By uniting we stand,
by dividing we fall.*

***John Dickson*

God Bless,
Rhonda Best
Dept. Chaplain



Leadership

Ladies

Thank you all for taking the Jr. Leadership Course. Your cards will be mailed out to you. Sr. Leadership Course is also available. The conference was good and very good with no snow; only a few flurries.

Remember, your District Conferences are coming up. MAKE SURE you return your paperwork by the Deadline. Credentials are very important.

END OF YEAR REPORTS ARE VERY IMPORTANT!!

Remember you do the work/service SHARE IT!!!

Reports have to be at Department APRIL 15TH 2016.

Share your knowledge with other members. This is how they will learn. You can use the Jr. & Sr. Leadership course as a tool. The courses are on the National American Legion Auxiliary web site. I also have copies.

National Headquarters has ask that we include our Mission Statement along with The Preamble. They want to make sure that we understand our Mission. Please make copies to have at your meetings.

Our Veterans Depend on us
Sharon Glassford
Leadership Chairman

National Security

Military Coupon Clipping --- Outdated or Useful?

Is coupon clipping one of your unit's/member's most valued programs? If so, please read these updates before you send your next package out.

**Many hours are spent clipping, sorting and packaging coupons that are then sent to military commissaries all over in order to help military families. As with all things, technology has made life easier for people to save money at the stores. Because of this, many commissaries now use electronic coupons and no longer accept the paper variety. Unfortunately, some members have reported that their packages have been returned with notes asking that they no longer send coupons to that particular commissary.

**There are still commissaries that accept paper coupons, and, with a little diligence, before sending your packages, you can be assured that they will not be returned. Before you mail your package of coupons, make sure to verify the address to be sure that particular commissary is still collecting the paper coupons.

Listed below are a few websites that have updated lists of commissaries accepting paper coupons. (If you don't have access to a computer, ask someone who does to check these websites for you.)

<http://www.military-money-matters.com/expired-coupons.html>

<http://grocerycouponsforfree.org/military.html>

<http://www.grocerysavings.com/p/military-family.html>

Coupons go a long way for a military family. They're also a great way to show support, and are an easy project for our members. With a little diligence, you can be certain that your time and efforts are appreciated.

Beth Kilgore, Chairman
National Security



Poppy

We held the Poppy Poster Contest at Mid-Winter and had 3 entries, all 3 were Junior Auxiliary Members and all 3 were from Shinnston Unit #31, and all 3 were in different classes; Class 1, Class 2 and Class 4. A total of \$101.00 was raised and Class 1 will be sent to National.

Please continue to work on Poppies and send me updates on what you are doing, so I can keep the National Chairman informed.

Roxie Nicholson
Poppy Chairman



Our Silent Auction was held on February 6, 2016 at Lakeview Resort in Morgantown and we raised \$932.00 for the Welfare Fund. We had a variety of items and a lot of competitive bidding. I hope everyone was happy with what they got.

The basket raffle for the Basket (s) raised #318.00 and was won by Lisa Cadwallader, Charles Town Unit #71.

Roxie Nicholson
Silent Auction Chairman

Past Department Presidents Club

We are still looking for the winner of the Dept. Past Presidents Club 50/50 drawing. The ticket is **red**, and the winner number is **9957777**.

If you have this ticket please call Susan Brown at 304-845-5122 to make arrangements for receiving your check in the amount of \$192.00. I will hold this ticket until May 6, 2016. After this date your share will be donated to the Department's Welfare Fund.

Thanks
Susan Brown, PDP
Dept. Past Presidents Club
Secretary/Treasurer



Parliamentarian



Parliamentary Points to Ponder

Nominations by a committee

Using a nominating committee to assemble a list of willing and qualified candidates for office can greatly benefit members when the time comes to select their leaders. If the committee does its job well, the membership can enjoy some basic assurance that the candidates nominated have at least expressed interest in the job, have agreed to serve, and are qualified for the offices for which they're nominated. The Nominating Committee should be elected by the membership.

Nominations from the floor

Sometimes called open nominations, this method is probably the most familiar. It's used in the vast majority of situations in which members elect their officers at a meeting. Your group's rules and customs determine when floor nominations are accepted. Sometimes nominations aren't taken until the election is pending, and sometimes they're taken at other times, such as at a meeting before the election meeting. The process of making floor nominations is subject to the following rules:

****Recognition by the chair** is not required to make a nomination. However, calling nominations from your seat is often impractical, so you may want to adopt a more formal nomination process.

****Nominations don't have to be seconded, but it's not out of order for members to second a nomination to signal their endorsement.**

****A member shouldn't offer more than one nomination to a position if there are several seats for the same office — such as for nominees to a board or a committee — until all other members have had the opportunity to make nominations.**

****If the bylaws don't prohibit it, a person can be nominated for more than one office and can even serve in more than one office if elected.**

****Nominations are taken for successive offices in the order they're listed in the bylaws.**

Motions to close nominations are usually unnecessary because the nomination process simply continues until no one wishes to make further nominations. When the nominations stop, the chair just declares nominations closed after making sure that no more nominations are forthcoming. Customarily (although it's not required), the chair accomplishes this by calling three times for more nominations.

According to Robert's Rules, a motion to close nominations is out of order as long as any member wishes to make a nomination.

Ann Buchanan
Parliamentarian

Pictures Midwinter

Conference



Department President Susan Wade, Commander Kenneth Smith, Central Division National Vice President Lynda Lancaster, National Vice Commander David Grough with his wife Donna



Membership Team 2015-2016

Susan Brown, Chairman; Lisa Cadwallader, Dept. 2nd Vice; Sharon Kauffman, 10th Dist. Vice; JoAnn Hastings, 6th Dist. Vice; Rita Alley, 5th Dist. Vice; Pat Calain, 9th Dist. Vice; Donna Leek, 1st Dist. Vice; and Tammy Workman, Dept. 1st Vice, holding her Lion

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Hello Ladies:

Hope all of you that attended our Mid-Winter Conference have rested up and are ready to go into the balance of our membership year. THANK YOU to all of the Posts, Units and SAL Squadrons that participated in the Comfort Item Drive. A written thank you will be forthcoming, but I wanted all to know how grateful I am to those who either delivered comfort items direct to their nearest VA facility or brought to Lakeview. THANK YOU to you who delivered back to your facility, and a special thank you to those who helped me; namely, Ann Buchanan, Beth Kilgore, JoAnn Hastings and our Department Secretary Paulette, who works with me before and during the comfort drive. I hope if I have not heard from any unit who delivered direct they will still let me know total of donation and maybe a short synopsis of what was delivered. To date our total is \$5835, with 19 units, etc. participating. Might I make a suggestion to each unit that they put a box in their Post or meeting room, so that members might bring in items throughout the year. It is easier to pick up a package of razors, or a tube of toothpaste, toothbrush, etc. each time you go to the grocery or drugstore than to come up with amount you do each February. If your unit can come up with a little additional money, don't forget to donate to the Veterans Creative Arts Festival. There were some pictures in the recent National Magazine of the latest festival; and as you could see, there was mention of one winner from West Virginia. I was told by our Central Division National Vice President, who also attended that there were two winners from West Virginia. I listed their names in the last Spirit, but maybe the magazine only showed part of the list of winners..

Don't forget to do an annual report. I do not want to get a report blank, and don't forget pictures. If you want to aspire to your report going onto National, you need to include pictures to back up and show your unit's activities. Remember annual reports are due into Department by April 15th. Remember this rule of thumb when reporting --activity military veteran activities report to National Security Chairman, activities to families of deceased veterans (dinners for families, decorating graves for deceased veterans, etc.) would be Community Service. These activities should not be listed on your VA&R report. Mary Waybright



American Legion Auxiliary WV Rhododendron Girls State

Girls State Chairman

Your girl state program should be in the working process. I hope you have contacted your schools also your contributors. The applications were given out at mid-winter, if your unit was not at mid-winter they were mailed to you. If you haven't received your applications please contact the Ann Buchanan.

Girl state will be held June 12 thru 17, 2016 at Wheeling Jesuit University. The registration fee is \$200.00 per girl.

One of the most important information to go out this year is the Samsung scholarship application MUST be done on line. All of the information is on the girl state web page.

If you have any questions contact the director or the registrar. Also, it's important for you to bring a hard copy with you.

Please remember the deadlines, it's very hard to plan the program unless we all work together. Just remember the staff of girls state are available to help you all you have to do is ask.

The theme this year **BE YOUR BEST YOU** the special project is the Department Welfare Fund.

If I can help you in any way contact me at 304-258-1036.

Irene Weber
Girl State Chairman

All units have been issued information for Rhododendron Girls State. If no one picked it up at the Midwinter Conference, it was mailed to the unit president on February 10, 2016. If your unit did not get the information, please let me know ASAP at AnnBuch@aol.com or 304-654-9932. Schools are expecting to hear from the units before March 6, so please make contact as soon as you can. Thank you for your assistance and all your work.

Ann Buchanan,
RGS Registrar

Rhododendron 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

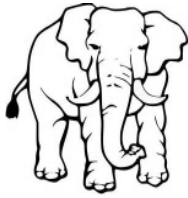
9th Dist. — Paula Booth
2031 River Road
Belington WV 26250
823-3251

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



Department President Susan Wade with Katie Mossburg, RGS Governor, Lynda Lancaster, Central Division National Vice President and two Junior members

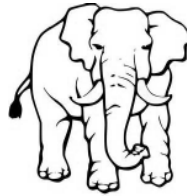
Membership 2015-2016 Filling The Big Top With Members



Target 6 (March 15th 80%)
National Goal—8487
Membership To Date—5624 (66.27 %)
Department Unit #200—82



Unit	2016 Goal	2016	% of Goal
Wheeling #1	26	0	
Moundsville #3	365	262	71.78%
McMechen #5	68	37	54.41%
Weirton #10	77	55	71.43%
Cameron #18	230	143	62.17%
New Martinsville #28	163	131	80.37%
Wellsburg #34	32	25	78.13%
Follansbee #45	51	32	62.75%
Benwood #46	117	81	69.23%
Pine Grove #81	111	71	63.96%
Paden City #86	146	100	68.49%
Wheeling #89	40	14	35.00%
Newell #114	50	35	70.00%
Hundred #120	107	58	54.21%
Chester #121	192	148	77.08%
TOTALS	1775	1192	67.15%

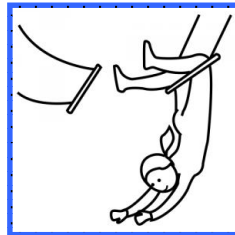


Elephant Keeper

Goal—4520

To Date—3048

(68.54 %)



Unit	2016 Goal	2016	% of Goal
Parkersburg #15	1011	711	70.35%
Spencer #21	66	45	68.18%
Pt. Pleasant #23	423	301	71.18%
Sistersville #67	159	75	47.17%
Parkersburg #104	14	10	71.43%
New Haven #140	174	132	75.86%
Williamstown #159	202	152	75.25%
TOTALS	2049	1426	69.59%



Unit	2016 Goal	2016	% of Goal
Welch #8	87	61	70.11%
Bluefield #9	34	19	55.88%
Beckley #32	50	30	60.00%
Gary #38	90	65	72.22%
TOTALS	261	175	67.05%



Lion Keeper

Goal—3824

To Date—2494

(65.22 %)

Unit	2016 Goal	2016	% of Goal
Elkins #29	215	157	73.02%
Cowen #62	54	34	62.96%
Lewisburg #69	76	47	61.84%
Belington #96	42	23	54.76%
Richwood #97	22	23	104.55%
Pickens #122	26	19	73.08%
TOTALS	435	305	70.11%

Unit	2016 Goal	2016	% of Goal
Buckhannon #7	66	47	71.21%
Grafton #12	26	13	50.00%
Clarksburg #13	180	136	75.56%
Shinnston #31	358	262	69.55%
Braxton Co. #33	32	19	59.38%
Mannington #40	22	12	54.55%
Philippi #44	39	7	17.95%
Bridgeport #68	56	38	67.86%
Jane Lew #166	46	39	84.78%
Morgantown #174	35	16	45.71%
TOTALS	860	589	68.49%

Unit	2016 Goal	2016	% of Goal
Huntington #16	302	219	72.52%
Logan #19	19	11	57.89%
Ceredo-Kenova #93	451	196	43.46%
Hamlin #111	61	39	63.93%
Milton #139	82	59	71.95%
Barboursville #177	168	118	70.24%
TOTALS	1083	642	59.28%

Unit	2016 Goal	2016	% of Goal
St. Albans #73	77	36	46.75%
South Charleston #94	24	19	79.17%
TOTALS	101	55	54.46%

Unit	2016 Goal	2016	% of Goal
Martinsburg #14	153	110	71.90%
Franklin #30	22	10	45.45%
Piedmont #52	34	17	50.00%
Berkeley Springs #60	251	177	70.52%
Moorefield #64	131	82	62.60%
Charles Town #71	305	206	67.54%
Petersburg #78	108	62	57.41%
Romney #91	310	200	95.24%
Charles Town #102	22	22	100.00%
Paw Paw #128	70	48	68.57%
Kirby #134	54	39	72.22%
Ridgeley #136	118	81	68.64%
Capon Bridge #137	144	110	76.39%
Keyser #152	58	44	75.86%
TOTALS	1780	1208	70.73%

March 2016

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 <i>Post #13 B Day Dinner Office Closed at 1:00 pm</i>	12 <i>3rd District Conference Shinnston #31</i>
13 <i>Shinnston Post #31 B Day Dinner</i>	14	15 <i>Target #6 80% Spirit Articles Due</i>	16	17 	18	19
20	21 <i>Spirit and VA Checks Mailed</i>	22	23	24	25 <i>Good Friday Office Closed</i>	26
27 <i>Easter</i>	28	29	30	31	<i>Programs of The Month Community Service Auxiliary Emergency Fund</i>	

2016 Ways & Means

Congratulations to the winners of January Department Fundraiser! We are off to a good start!

I still have 3 counter checks out, and am not sure if they just hasn't cashed them, or can't get their bank to honor them.

Just a reminder the week of February 22nd I will be in Washington DC for a Conference. The checks for the 15th-20th will be mailed out when I return on the 25th.

There are still tickets left to sell, or give out to Units. I will have them with me at all the Conferences, and Birthday Dinners I attend.

Remember 75% of the tickets sold goes to our Veterans Welfare Fund!! What a great way to help our veterans!

Until next month,
Paulette Anderson
Ways & Means Chairman



I would like to thank West Virginia American Legion family for your hospitality extended to me at your midwinter conference. Thank you President Susan, Secretary Paulette, NEC Debbie and Leadership Chairman Sharon for the courtesies and hospitality given me.

Thank you West Virginia American Legion Auxiliary for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. It's truly an honor and blessing.

*Lynda Lancaster
Central Division National Vice President*

January 2016 Ways and Means Winners

Winner	Number	City	State	Date	Amount
Jeff Wisley	448	Lavalette	WV	1/1/2016	\$100.00
	591			1/2/2016	
	715			1/4/2016	
Golden Helmick	406	Martinsburg	WV	1/5/2016	\$25.00
	923			1/6/2016	
	263			1/7/2016	
	817			1/8/2016	
	116			1/9/2016	
Mary I Yost	397	Gypsy	WV	1/11/2016	\$25.00
Patricia Plummer	218	Delray	WV	1/12/2016	\$25.00
	442			1/13/2016	
Roane County #21	158	Spencer	WV	1/14/2016	\$25.00
Shirley Davis	842	Kenova	WV	1/15/2016	\$25.00
Jean Plants	211	Ellicott	MD	1/16/2016	\$25.00
Edith Shankle	579	Paw Paw	WV	1/18/2016	\$25.00
	704			1/19/2016	
Christy Houseletter	102	Berkeley Springs	WV	1/20/2016	\$200.00
		Virginia Beach	VA	1/21/2016	\$25.00
Joe Johnson	197	Bluefield	WV	1/22/2016	\$25.00
Harold Sparks	191	Wheeling	WV	1/23/2016	\$25.00
Sarah West	966			1/25/2016	
	771			1/26/2016	
	487			1/27/2016	
Don Taylor	049	Wellsburg	WV	1/27/2016	\$25.00
Pam Hebb	343	Edgewater	MD	1/28/2016	\$25.00
Elaine Davis	477	Keyser	WV	1/29/2016	\$25.00
	333			1/30/2016	

FIFTH DISTRICT CONFERENCE



Ceredo-Kenova Unit 93 is hosting the spring conference at Post 93 on April 9, 2016 when the poppy basket will be raffled. The Easter Bunny and basket will be displayed for two weeks prior to the Easter holiday at the Ceredo-Kenova Public Library along with the book, The Poppy Lady, Moina Belle Michael and Her Tribute to Veterans.

At the Fifth District Spring Conference the poppy basket with lion & elephant and other items, will be raffled to benefit veterans.

Unit 93 member Shirley Davis has been using "left-over" poppies in new and creative ways. Look for other items at the conference!

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!

\$16.00 per year

Runs August through July Each Year

Make check payable to:

Dept. Treasurer, ALA

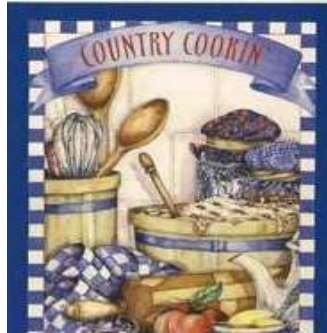
NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS OR PO BOX:-----

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS For 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.wvau.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!

Cookbooks are \$15.00 plus \$4.00 (S & H)

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

Make checks payable to: **Department Treasurer, ALA**

Mail to: ALA Department of West Virginia
1251 Doolin Run Road
New Martinsville WV 26155 –7808