

## INFORMATION FROM HEADQUARTERS

### Website Edition

October / November 2006

Volume 1 Issue 2

### OCTOBER is CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS MONTH

October 24 65% Target Date for Membership

October 31 – Halloween - Watch out for the little Trick or Treaters

### NOVEMBER is POPPY AND EDUCATION MONTH

Nov. 11– Veterans Day – Do something nice for a Veteran

Headquarters will be closed Friday, Nov. 10th

November 18<sup>th</sup> President Robbi's Homecoming

Nov. 23—24 – Thanksgiving Holidays

Headquarters will be closed

[DECEMBER – VA GIFT SHOPS – The Gift Shop schedules are posted to the website.](#)

### BITS AND PIECES

- Plans of Work for this year are available on the ALA website, [www.alatexas.org](http://www.alatexas.org). Annual report forms and rosters (blue books) were distributed at the Fall DEC. They will be mailed to the unit presidents. Anyone wishing to purchase additional Plans of Work, Annual Report forms or Rosters or may do so. Please call Department Headquarters to request an order form or members can download the order form. Click on the "forms" link on the website.
- Please share this bulletin with all the members of your unit who do not have Internet access.
- A Texas shirt order form is posted on the membership page of the website. Please make copies as necessary for your unit's orders. You can order a polo or Henley style shirt.
- **PLEASE**, Do not write checks for Christmas Assessment and Bond Fee together. Separate checks are needed as these Funds are deposited into separate accounts in *different* banks.
- Bond fee forms were mailed to the units with the 2007 membership cards. This is due to the postage regulations regarding non profit bulk mail. The bond fee is \$7.00 again this year. Please pay your bond fee promptly. Thanks to all the units that have already sent in their bond fee. If your unit isn't sure the fee has been paid, just check with the Sherry at the Department Office.
- The unit Christmas Assessments totals are included in the bulletin. Please see that your unit pays its Christmas Assessment promptly. This money is used to give every veteran in the VA hospitals \$5 at Christmastime and is based on August 31, 2006 membership.

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- Order forms from Ways and Means Chairman, Shirley Ott will be posted to the website. Please order President Robbi's pin or other pins and sweepstakes tickets using these order forms. Make extra copies of the forms as needed.
- Don't forget National Family Week November 19-25, 2006.
- American Education Week will be observed November 12-18. As members of the ALA it is our responsibility to encourage and recognize all school personnel to show them our appreciation for all they do for our nation's most valuable resource, our children. For ideas and information in promoting American Education Week contact the Americanism and Children & Youth Commission of The American Legion, PO Box 1055, Indianapolis IN 46206. Order Stock #23-006, American Education Week.
- The [55% target date](#) was Tuesday, September 26th. We reached this target on Monday, September 18th. Way to go Units, Districts and Divisions! All the District and Divisions reached the target!
- [65% Target date](#) is Tuesday, October 24, 2006. Let's find some of those Texas Treasures for President Robbi and meet this target date early too. Get those metal detectors out of the closet and get to "sweeping" the state for members, both renewals and new members.
- [Constitutional Corner](#)  
The Department Constitution & Bylaws Committee will answer questions you submit to them about Constitution and Bylaws and/or parliamentary procedure. All questions will remain anonymous. Additional questions may be sent to the C&B Chairman at the following e-mail address: [DianaKing4222@sbcglobal.net](mailto:DianaKing4222@sbcglobal.net). The committee will work together on providing you with an answer.

Q. *As President, do I have a vote?*

A. Yes. In a ballot vote, you vote as any other member during the time ballots are being cast. You cannot wait until the ballots are counted and then vote, not even to break a tie.

In a roll call vote, the President's vote counts the same as any other member. In a voice vote, the President can vote but, in this case, she usually doesn't. In voice votes, or vote by acclamation, the exception occurs in case of a tie vote, when the President can cast her vote to break a tie.

Q. *Our Unit Treasurer will not leave the Unit's checkbook with the President when she goes on vacation. Can she do that?*

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- A. No. All records belong to the Unit and not to the officeholder. The Treasurer is the caretaker of the Unit's monies. As such, she should ensure checks are available in her absence, as well as a financial statement to be read in her absence at the next meeting.

If the Unit Treasurer refuses to surrender the financial records within a reasonable time, legal action may be necessary to retrieve them.

- Q. *Our Post is demanding money and financial records from our Unit. Can Legionnaires do that?*

- A. No. The Counsel General (The American Legion National Judge Advocate) has advised that no Post has authority over the Unit associated with it.

- Q. *How long does one need to be a member in order to vote or to run for office?*

- A. There is no time requirement for an individual to be a member before she is eligible to vote or run for office. The right to aspire to and hold elected office is one of the rights of membership.

- Q. *Does a member have to be Unit President before she can run for a District or Department office?*

- A. No. If a member is in good standing (her dues are current), she has the right to run for any office in the American Legion Auxiliary.

### A Message from the Desk of President Robbi

Had a wonderful time at the National Convention in Salt Lake City. We were all filled with Texas pride when we won several awards. Congratulations to our own Gayle for winning the membership award for chartering the most new units. Several of our delegates made trips over to Nevada and I assume returned with smiles on their faces. I personally enjoyed the good weather, the good friends and Vicki Pollard coming into her own as the Pathfinder for the group.

I am absolutely amazed at the way membership is coming in. We are fast approaching the First target date and Texas will be at 55 Per Cent. I am so grateful to all of you for working so hard to get membership turned in. We have two new units chartered in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District. It is rewarding to see new units organized. We have also managed to save two units that were scheduled to lose their charters.

The Plans of Work all arrived at the Department Office. They are now on the computer and will be on the web site shortly. It took a lot of work and effort from the chairmen and the Department staff to get them in. All unit presidents will receive the report forms and a directory in the mail. We have eliminated reports

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that were not necessary. The report forms will also be available on the web site. This is something new that we are trying and I have high hopes that the report cycle will be easier in the spring. Please read over the reports when you receive them so you will be aware of the areas of emphasis. Keep up with what you do so you will be prepared to fill them out. It is so important to report the time and money we spend on our programs.

The schedule for the visits to the VA Hospitals has been established. It is important that Auxiliary members show their support for the Hospitals by attending these visits. You also learn a great deal about how our volunteers relate to the staff and how important the work is that we do. Dates for the Christmas gift shops and Christmas parties are in place. Please remember to send in your Christmas Assessment in a timely manner so that the money will be in place to provide the monetary gift we give to all hospitalized veterans at Christmas.

The Hunt for the Treasures of Texas is certainly an experience. I am enjoying the traveling and getting to meet so many members.

*Robbi Ruffert*

Department President