

INFORMATION FROM HEADQUARTERS

Website Edition

February / March 2009

Volume 3 Issue 4

**FEBRUARY**

**AMERICANISM MONTH**

February 16

Presidents Day Department office closed

February 1-28

First Girls State Registration

February 28- Mar 4 NEC Meeting and Awareness Assembly- Washington DC

**MARCH**

**COMMUNITY SERVICE MONTH**

March 1-14

Second Girls State Registration

District Spring Conventions Begin

March 15-17

American Legion Birthday

March 15-31

Third Girls State Registration

**APRIL**

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH MONTH**

April 1

Fourth and Final Girls State Registration if quota is not filled

April 15

Deadline for reports to District Presidents

**BITS AND PIECES**

- Our new office is wonderful! If you missed the dedication and open house at Midwinter, you missed a great time!!
- Unit Presidents, please pass the information on to the other members in your units. We depend on you.
- Order forms for the Department President Treasure pins, Sweepstakes tickets and membership T-shirts are available upon request. Just let us know and we'll get the forms to you. We urge everyone to buy, buy, buy.
- **990 INFORMATION:** All Units should file a 990. If the Unit takes in under \$25,000, only the first page needs to be filled out. The IRS wants this for information purposes. If a Unit takes in over \$25,000 follow the instructions. No matter how much a Unit makes —File a 990. Please Note: the group exemption number to use on the 990 is 0964. If your unit has not received a Form 990, you may obtain one by: (1) Contacting your local IRS office and requesting one or (2) you may write and request a form from Central Area Distribution Center, P.O. Box 8908, Bloomington, IL 61702-8908. The IRS is requiring units to e-file. Please contact the office for more information.
- **Bond Information:** The 2008-2009 Bond Fee is due and payable. Due to postal regulations governing non-profit bulk mailing we cannot mail the form in the bulletins. Units that have not paid will be contacted and

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provided forms in which to send in their unit's bond fees. Remember, this is an obligatory fee. All units are required to pay their bond fee. Units that do not pay are not in good standing with the Department of Texas.

- **Poppy Information:** The form for ordering poppies for the spring of 2009 was included in the last bulletin. If you need an order form, please call or e-mail your request. The order form is also available at our website, [www.alatexas.org](http://www.alatexas.org). We have enough poppies to fill all our orders. Please remember that if your unit ordered poppies previous, unit are required to send in the 1/3 of the proceeds to Department before ordering for the spring/fall 2009.
- **Christmas Assessments:** A listing of unpaid Christmas Assessments for 2008 is included in the mailed bulletin. If your unit is on this list, please send in your Christmas Assessment to Department as soon as possible. Remember this money is used to give every hospitalized veteran \$5.00 at Christmas. This is an obligatory fee. All units are required to pay this assessment to remain in good standing with the Department.
- **Spring District Convention** information is included in this bulletin. Please try to attend your District Convention. This is the year the odd numbered Districts will be electing a new District President and Vice President. It is very important for your unit to be represented and have a say in these proceedings.
- **Reminder:** 2010 Unit Data Forms were sent out in the Dec/Jan bulletin. This form is due into Department Headquarters by Feb. 15. This information is forwarded to National so that National Headquarters can print the 2010 renewal notices for our Senior members. If we do not receive this form, National could possibly use inaccurate or outdated information. Please do not mail this form to National. The form is available on the website.
- Membership is updated and posted on the website on Tuesdays.
- Many forms and the Plans of Work are available on the website.
- Roster changes and additions are listed in the mailed bulletin.

### Our Friends say "Thank You"

Past Department President Katherine Morris says, "It is difficult to adequately acknowledge in words my sincere thanks and appreciation for the many cards, letters and phone calls with all the love and concern being expressed during my illness. I am getting better each day but according to the doctor, it will be sometime before I will be up and going full force. God blessed me with such wonderful friends. Your kindness and caring means so much to me—it means "Thank You for taking the time to show that you care." I feel so very fortunate to be a member from the great state of Texas.

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Visual History Chairman Robin McPeters says, Joe and I thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers. My brother is doing very well after 10.5 hours of brain surgery.”

Past 7th District President Kim Palasota says, “Thank you so much for the calls, words of condolence, love and friendship, during this time of our loss. Your love and comfort means more than you will ever know.”

### **From the Desk of President Mickie**

*Welcome to the Wonderful Patriotic World of Auxiliary –February is Americanism month..... Show your Patriotism!*

Congratulations District and Division Presidents! Department made the 75% target date, and so did you! It wasn't easy, and I appreciate all the response you gave to the Division Presidents, just as I appreciate their response to me..... *Pat yourselves on the back!* We are at 82.52%.

We had a good turnout at our Mid Winter conference January 23-25. If you were unable to attend you missed what I had promised last month, to be a “*new and interesting program*”. And interesting, it was! Before we could even get our meeting underway..... We had a little unexpected excitement in the Hotel.....So, everything was delayed. After several days of summer weather-that day turned out to be bitter cold.

Saturday was the ribbon cutting and reception at the new Department Headquarters. But, ignoring potential frost bite, the dedication went on as planned, with a great number there to tour the building and enjoy refreshments. Also in attendance; Southern Division National Vice President, Nancy Jordan and American Legion National Commander David Rehbein. Our office staff, Paula, Lisa and Sherry all worked very hard getting ready for this event and the Auxiliary offices looked pretty “spiffy”! *Thank You!* Some of the PDP's served as hostesses, during the tour, serving cookies and punch. Thank you ladies, you did a fine job!

In the afternoon, back at the hotel, Leadership Chairman Cathy Jackson directed the Juniors through a “skit” on how NOT to hold a meeting, and Distinguished Guest Chairman Marian Odell gave some very important pointers on Basic Protocol.

*The Road2Recovery* is supported is produced by the Fitness Challenge Foundation in partnership with the VA Volunteer Service office to benefit Mental and Physical rehabilitation programs that feature cycling as the core activity. Cycling is an important part of the recovery and rehabilitation program, and participation helps speed recovery. The next event - the “*Texas Challenge*”

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March 30th-April 5<sup>th</sup>, where the cyclist will ride from San Antonio to Dallas/Ft. Worth; stopping in San Marcos, Austin, Ft. Hood, Waco, Cleburne, Ft. Worth, and ending at the Texas Motor Speedway. You too can *make a difference in the life of a wounded warrior* by helping along the way, like serving meals at the stops, setting up water stations, etc. For more information go to [www.theroad2recovery.org](http://www.theroad2recovery.org) or contact VA&R Chairman Diana King, [Dianaking4222@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Dianaking4222@sbcglobal.net).

**REMINDER:** There are 2008 Christmas Assessments still due from several units – please send yours NOW.

**ONE LAST NOTE:** Remember, it is important that communication between the activity chairman and the committee members be kept active. When you receive an e-mail please respond!

Mickie Prendergast, Department President



**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY**

**We reached our 75% target goal in December, well ahead of the January 27<sup>th</sup> target date!**

**All four Divisions and 22 of the 23 Districts did too!!**

**Get in touch with those non renewing members so we can reach our target of 100% by May 23rd President Mickie's Birthday!**

**WE KNOW YOU CAN DO IT!**