



American Legion Auxiliary

Department Of Texas

Bi-Monthly Bulletin

Volume 15

Issue 6

June

2011

American Legion Auxiliary

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INFORMATION FROM HEADQUARTERS

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JUNE

- June 14 Close of Department Membership Books. Transmittals must be in Department by this date, postmarks do not count
- June 24-26 Department Convention – Odessa, TX

JULY

- July 4 Independence Day (Department office closed)

AUGUST

- Aug 26-31 National Convention Minneapolis, MN

SEPTEMBER

- Sep 1 National Convention Minneapolis, MN
- Sep 23 Division/District Presidents School Dept. Headquarters
- Sep 24-25 Department Executive Committee Meeting (DEC)
Austin, Omni Southpark Hotel

INFORMATION FROM DEPARTMENT

2012 UNIT CERTIFICATION OF OFFICERS: Please send this form to Department immediately following your election so we can mail your 2012 membership cards. No cards will be mailed until we receive this form.

2011-2012 Unit Bond Fee: The unit bond fee for the upcoming administrative year is now due. Please send in the unit's bond fee with the 2012 Certification of Officers. If you have already sent in the unit certification, mail in the bond fee.

NATIONAL CONVENTION: The 2011 National convention is in Minneapolis, MN. All Auxiliary members who are Texas Delegates or Alternates should pay the \$15 registration fee by close of Department Convention.

Department Headquarters needs to know by July 15th if a Delegate or Alternate is NOT going. Those who are not Delegates or Alternates must pay Guest Registration to THE AMERICAN LEGION. Housing for everyone must be paid to THE AMERICAN LEGION whether you are a Delegate, Alternate or Guest. A housing form is enclosed in this bulletin. Please note the deadline for this form.

OTHER INFORMATION: The Department Headquarters office in Austin will be closed during the convention in Odessa. A temporary office will be open at the MCM Elegante Hotel while the convention is in session.

UNPAID 2010 Christmas Assessments are included in this bulletin.

Our next bulletin will be published in August. Have a wonderful summer.

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ATTENTION ACTIVITY CHAIRMEN

Please bring an additional copy of your report to the Department Convention to give to the Court Reporter. This assists her to get the information in order and have names spelled correctly for the convention minutes.

JUNIOR NEWS

Junior Activities Chairman Tiffany Troxclair asks that if anyone has something to donate to the Juniors for their annual raffle at the Department Convention, it would be appreciated.

WAYS & MEANS NEWS

Ways & Means Chairman Jackie Clanan reminds everyone to please bring all pins and monies to Department Convention or send to her by June 15th. Make them the first thing you pack for Department Convention!! If you have any old pins that you would like to donate, please bring them, too.

FROM THE DESK OF PRESIDENT DIANA

Our deadline to compete for Department membership awards is June 10. We will, of course, continue to take 2011 membership after that date. It's time to pull out all the stops! Make some phone calls to those who have not yet paid their dues. Tell them that by paying their dues, they are giving a gift to our veterans, and not just paying dues to an organization. Their one time gift a year supports our veterans, our military, and their families. Remind them that it also honors the person who gave them their eligibility to belong to our great organization, and point out that our membership fees are small compared to the good work that we do and the many people we help.

The American Legion Auxiliary Public Spirit Award was recently presented to Ronald Katz, an inventor and a philanthropist, who recognized that providing excellent care to injured soldiers need not be limited to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Armed Services. "Operation Mend," a unique partnership between the surgeons and staff at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, and the V.A.-Great Los Angeles Healthcare System was established to help treat U.S. military personnel who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Surgeons perform reconstructive surgery on those who have been seriously burned, giving them a chance to appear human once again. The Katz Family Foundation supports all non-covered costs, including travel and housing for soldiers and their families during treatment. For more information, go to <http://operationmend.ucla.edu/>.

We need to continue to advocate for our veterans and their families. For those who may not know how to do it online, go to The American Legion National website at <http://www.legion.org/>, and then click on "Legislative Action Center," which appears under each of the five pillars of The American Legion at the bottom of the page. First, sign up to receive The American Legion Legislative E-Newsletter (button on left-hand side) so that you will be notified by email of

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updated legislative issues that The American Legion wants Congress to consider. To find the current issues, click on "Stay Connected" (also on the left-hand side). At this time, the only action alert is to "Rally once again around the Flag." Click on "Rally once again around the Flag," and then fill in your personal information, including your zip+4. If you wish, you may modify the sample letter. In fact, they encourage it. Once you click on "send message," your letter will automatically go to your two U.S. Senators and U.S. Representative.

Someone from the National Legislative Commission monitors these messages. Once they see that action is being taken, they make appointments with legislators to visit them so that they can let them know, for instance, that 3,000 of their constituents wants them to support and cosponsor a constitutional amendment that will return to the American people the right to protect their Flag.

We are working diligently to help our homeless veterans find and retain stable independent housing through a government program called HUD-VASH. HUD-VASH accomplishes this by partnering Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 8 vouchers with Veteran's Administration Supportive Housing (VASH) case management services. Case management provides ongoing support and monitoring of VASH veterans in the community by promoting and fostering the veteran's growing independence, recovery, and success as they transition back to living in the community. For more information, including eligibility criteria and frequently asked questions, check out <http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/ HUD-VASH.asp>.

While touring the Big Spring and Amarillo VA Medical Centers last month, the Commander and I learned that these two hospitals, through HUD-VASH, have each given more than 70 vouchers to assist homeless veterans with rent payment. This means that between these two hospitals alone, more than 140 homeless veterans are now off the street and have somewhere to live!

Thanks to The American Legion Family, this year's Ride 2 Recovery Texas Challenge was a huge success. Members donated \$27,726.65, which does not include in-kind donations. Thank you so much for all your hard work! Someone mentioned to me recently that because Ride 2 Recovery now has big corporate sponsors, we are no longer needed. That is far from the truth. Ride 2 Recovery cannot continue to do what they are doing without us. We are the ground troops. Our American Legion Riders keep them safe. Our site coordinators and volunteers spend countless hours coordinating the events within our communities. It means so much to our wounded warriors to be welcomed into our communities, especially by the children. Our children need to know that anything could and should be tried in an effort to make one's life better.

This has definitely been a year of change, and I thank all of you for adjusting to the changes. Changes included how we process our membership, a new membership and financial system, formation of the President's Club, a round

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robin event at the Fall D.E.C., a change in our annual sweepstakes fundraiser, a Consolidated Unit Report form rather than individual reports for each program, and changes to our Plans of Action which are relevant to our mission.

I am looking forward to the Division Conventions, Boys and Girls State, and the Department Convention in Odessa. Our guest speaker will be Southern Division National Vice President Pat Lambert-Knight from Virginia. In addition, we will have a special presentation from David Wright, Director of Operation Military Kids.

As my year comes to a close, I wish to thank each and every one of you for making this year special. Thank you for being a "Star" in my life.

For God and Country,

Diana King
Department President

**ALA Department of Texas
Convention 2011
Odessa TX
“Share Your Event”
Public Relations Committee
Poster Contest**

**Show us how your Unit is
Getting the American Legion Auxiliary Name
Out into the Public**

Guidelines are as follows:

1. Pick ONE FUNCTION that you have done this year to get your American Legion Auxiliary in the news.
2. Use pictures...letters...etc. to decorate your poster.
3. Poster must be on a **foam board 20 X 30 inches**. Only small tri-folds will be accepted. NO regular poster board. It is too flimsy.
4. **On the bottom, center of the board** put your Unit's Name and Number, Along with the name of the Chairman of that particular function.
5. Make sure you bring the poster to the PR Room as soon as you can when you get to the hotel.
6. Ballots will be 50¢ each to help PR pay for printing costs and remainder goes to scholarship fund.

Judging shall be by ballot of the members present at the Conference. Getting your poster in early for display is critical as people start mingling in the PR room as soon as we start setting up.

Winners will be announced on Sunday morning.

First, Second & Third Place



**SHOW THE STATE OF TEXAS
YOUR BEST PUBLIC RELATIONS PROJECT**

1st Division
Kay Mims

2nd Division
Rita Redd-Chm

3rd Division
Donna Brooks

4th Division
Nina Swink



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SPECIAL MEMORANDUM

FROM: Paula Raney, Department Secretary
for the Constitution and Bylaws Committee

TO: All Members

DATE: April 25, 2011

RE: Notice of Proposed Amendment to the
Department of Texas Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules

The Eight and Forty is no longer a subsidiary organization of the American Legion Auxiliary. Therefore, an amendment to the Department of Texas Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules should be made in order to conform to the National Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules. This is strictly a "housekeeping" change for conformity.

Action on the proposed amendment will take place at the 2011 Department Convention.

Department of Texas Bylaws Article VI, Subsidiary Organizations, currently reads:

- Section 1. All subsidiary organizations of the American Legion Auxiliary shall be subject to regulation by action of the Department Convention or the Department Executive Committee of the American Legion Auxiliary.
- Section 2. Subsidiary organizations shall be required to file a complete financial statement of receipts and expenditures with the Department President and the Department Finance Committee of the American Legion Auxiliary.
- Section 3.* The Department Executive Committee of the American Legion Auxiliary, after notice and hearing, may order the charter (Petit or Department) of Eight and Forty suspended or revoked for any good and sufficient cause upon vote of the Department Convention assembled.

Proposed amendment:

Delete Section 3 in its entirety.

The Miss Poppy Scrapbooks will be judged on Saturday June 25th at the Hawaiian Room at the Department Convention in Odessa.

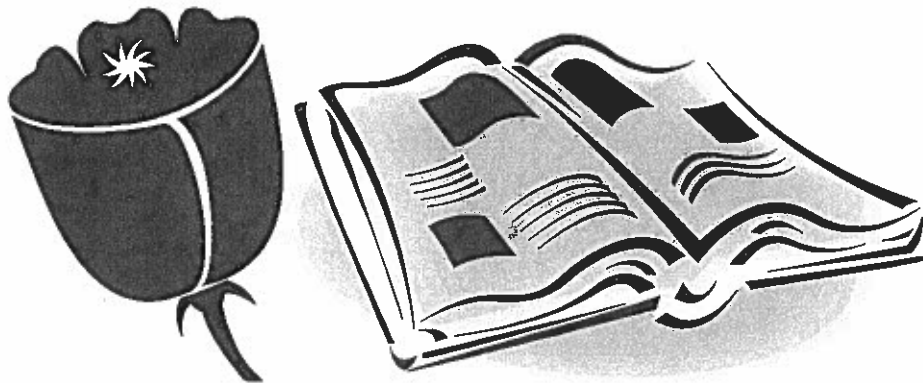
Please have them there by 11:00 A.M. Please follow the instructions in your Plan of Action.

Frances Garza, Chairman, Div. III

Diane Simpson, Div. I

Hazel Berry, Div. II

Celia Pietsch, Div. IV



NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING REQUEST

MINNEAPOLIS, MN

AUGUST 26 – SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

RESERVATION DEADLINE – JUNE 27, 2011

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION. ANY FORMS RECEIVED INCOMPLETE, OR AFTER JUNE 29, 2011, WILL BE RETURNED. THIS FORM MUST BE ACCOMPANIED WITH CREDIT CARD INFORMATION OR FIRST ROOM NIGHT DEPOSIT.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

POST NUMBER _____ DELEGATE _____ ALTERNATE _____ GUEST _____

Please reserve for me _____ room(s) (King ___ D/D ___) at the Hyatt Regency

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Enclosed is my Credit Card information or check for \$135.00 for the first night room deposit.

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Visa _____ AM/Exp _____ Discover _____ Master Card _____ Other _____

I will be sharing a room with: _____

Post/Unit # _____ Delegate _____ Alternate _____ Guest _____

Registration Fee of \$15.00 (separate check) is also enclosed:

Check # _____ Cash Rec'd _____ Received by: _____

***THE ABOVE INFORMATION, ALONG WITH THE ROOM DEPOSIT IS
REQUIRED BY JUNE 27, 2011 BEFORE RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE***

**Return this form to: The American Legion, Department of Texas, Attn: National
Convention, PO Box 140527, Austin, Texas 78714.**

2010 Unpaid Christmas Assessment

05/12/11

		Members	Due	Amt. Paid
District	5			
184	Grand Prairie	24	\$16.00	\$0.00
218	Irving	31	\$19.00	\$0.00
855	Dallas	17	\$16.00	\$0.00
District	7			
640	Anderson	17	\$14.00	\$0.00
District	8			
132	Humble	29	\$16.00	\$0.00
District	12			
389	Fort Worth	34	\$19.00	\$0.00
District	13			
71	Denton	14	\$16.00	\$0.00
169	Wichita Falls	63	\$21.00	\$0.00
209	Seymour	21	\$14.00	\$0.00
District	14			
38	Floresville	73	\$29.00	\$0.00
547	Nixon	29	\$16.00	\$0.00
633	Mathis	13	\$14.00	\$0.00
District	17			
219	Dublin	15	\$14.00	\$0.00
343	Moran	20	\$16.00	\$0.00
District	18			
175	Memphis	20	\$14.00	\$0.00
District	19			
438	Slaton	21	\$16.00	\$0.00
District	20			
443	Somerset	23	\$14.00	\$0.00
District	21			
370	Llano	12	\$14.00	\$0.00
487	Priddy	27	\$14.00	\$0.00
District	22			
319	Deer Park	16	\$14.00	\$0.00
District	23			
409	Cotulla	12	\$14.00	\$0.00
TOTAL DUE			\$340.00	

