

INFORMATION FROM HEADQUARTERS

October / November 2011

Volume 16 Issue 2

OCTOBER – CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS MONTH

October 31 Halloween

NOVEMBER – POPPY MONTH

November 11 Veterans Day Department Headquarters will be closed

November 25-26 Thanksgiving Department Headquarters will be closed

DECEMBER - VA GIFT SHOPS

INFORMATION FROM DEPARTMENT

Units that have not certified their officers: As of this printing, 9 units have not certified their officers for 2011-2012. Because of this, their 2012 membership cards are still being held at Department Headquarters and are zero units. These units are not receiving the bulletin as we don't have a point of contact for them.

The units are:

District	Unit	Location
8	323	Baytown
8	827	Houston
12	389	Ft Worth
14	413	Three Rivers
14	633	Mathis
17	219	Dublin
19	438	Slaton
19	585	Plains
21	370	Llano

Plans of Action for this year will be available on the ALA website, www.alatexas.org. Rosters (blue books) were distributed at the Fall DEC. Plans of Action were distributed to the District Presidents for their units. Anyone wishing to purchase additional Plans of Action or rosters may do so. Please call Department Headquarters to request an order form or members can download the order form from the website. Plans of Action are also available on a flash drive or a CD.

Bond Fee and Christmas Assessment and Christmas Gift Shop -

Please DO NOT combine the money for Bond Fee and Christmas Assessment in the same check. Separate checks are necessary as these funds are deposited into separate accounts in *different* banks.

The bond fee amount is \$7. Please pay the unit bond fee promptly. If your unit isn't sure if the fee has been paid, just check with Lisa at the Department office.

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Christmas assessment totals are included in the bulletin. Please see that your unit pays its assessment promptly. This money is used to give every veteran in the VAMCs \$5 at Christmastime and is based on August 31st, 2011 membership.

ANY UNIT NOT PAYING THE BOND FEE OR CHRISTMAS ASSESSMENT IS NOT IN GOOD STANDING.

Christmas Gift Shop information is included in this bulletin.

Ways & Means – Order forms from Ways & Means Chairman Jackie Clanan are included in this bulletin. Please order President Mary Lee's pin or other pins using this form. Make extra copies of the forms as needed.

Roster Changes and Additions

Americanism	Division 1	Change to	Tina Hill
Constitution & Bylaws	Division 2	Add	Betty Manbeck
Constitution & Bylaws	Division 4	Add	Joyce Roberson
Finance	Division 2	Change to	Barbara Kundert
Leadership	Division 1	Change to	Nancy Beavers
Music Chairman	Division 3	Add	Nancy Reed
Past Presidents Parley	Division 2	Change to	Katherine Morris

Complete contact information for the above is listed on a separate page in this bulletin.

FROM THE DESK OF PRESIDENT MARY LEE

I cannot begin to relay to you what an awesome time we had at National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Texas' accomplishments and programs for our Veterans, did not go unnoticed, we were mentioned in numerous Chairman's reports. Thank You to all Activity Chairman and units that took the time to report. You made Texas Proud.

Madam President Carlene held a magnificent convention. But then she is from Texas. Welcome home, Sure Shot Carlene, we've missed you. We know you had a wonderful and exciting year, and we can't wait to see your pictures and hear your travel stories.

I want to thank all committee chairmen and members that participated in our Fall Department Executive Committee meeting. There was lots of information presented for everyone to take home and put into action, for our Veterans and their families. Now that we have the information, let's swing into action and implement some of those ideas. As you work the programs, be sure to log all activities on your member sheet. So when your Committee Chairmen are asking for Mid-Year reports in December, you will be ready to send her the information, she needs to complete her report to the National Committee.

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Kudos to Pat Wanoreck and Gayle Simpson for an excellent New President's School. Thank You.

The Auxiliary participated in National Early Bird membership drive. Guess what, Texas submitted 12% of its membership by July 15, 2011 and we were #5 in the top 10%. **Great Job Texas. Way to go, but we can't stop.** Don't forget Texas is striving for 100% in the Auxiliary, Legion and Sons of the American Legion. We are fortunate this year, as our membership goal did not increase. If every member recruits, just one new member we will make our goal.

Always remember – **We Have to Ask-** them to join us in pursuing our mission to our Veterans. The American Legion Auxiliary is excited as always to work with the American Legion to achieve our membership goal.

It is that time of year when we get serious about our programs and mission of our organization. The V.A. Hospital tours and Christmas Gift shops are all scheduled and on the Auxiliary's website. Every member of the Auxiliary is invited to attend all or the one that is nearest you. We look forward to seeing you as we travel to each one. Christmas assessments are due now. The Christmas Assessment does not require a vote from the body to pay, it is your obligation. The assessment is the Auxiliary's gift to hospitalized Veterans. If you are mailing packages to the V.A. Hospital, please mail them early. Mailing instructions are included in this bulletin.

DUES INCREASE-

A dues increase was approved at the National Convention. In 2013, dues will be increased by \$4.00. Units will send to department \$21.00 instead of \$17.00. Additionally the first membership notice will not be sent out until September 2012. Units should start now to be pro-active by preparing your own notice to send to members to remind them of their dues.

As of this writing, Texas is #9 in National membership standings, and #6 in the Southern Division standings. We still have too many zero units. Every unit's officer's dues should be paid and sent in to department. **Congratulations** to Unit 220 Nocona and Unit 290 Dripping Springs for achieving 100%. My one Christmas wish is to **not** have any zero units by Thanksgiving.

Congratulations to newly elected Southern Division National Vice President Winnie Broussard, she is from our neighboring state of Louisiana.

BIG ANNOUNCEMENT: The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion will have two joint sweepstakes projects this year. Watch your mail in November for your tickets. You could win \$10,000 at the Midwinter Conference joint session!!!!

Honoring their Service by Celebrating Our Veterans and Freedom,

Mary Waddell

Mary Waddell

Department President