



Secretary's Note

For God and Country,
Department of Alabama
Carol Tyson, Secretary

December 7th, 2018

Mid-Winter Conference:

Mid-Winter will be held at the Grand Hotel from January 24-27, 2019 in Point Clear. Registration is \$15/person and forms are available on our Department website at: www.alabamaamericanlegionauxiliary.com under Dept Links. Banquet Tickets are \$20/person for Saturday night, January 26, 2019. Please make checks for Banquet Tickets out to The American Legion – this is a Legion sponsored event. **Do not combine registration and banquet ticket payments together.** When it gets a little closer to the date, the agenda and other pertinent information will also be available. Please make plans to attend. Pre-registration will be accepted until Jan. 4, 2019.

Something Happening at Your Unit or in Your District:

We want to know about it. If you have something going on, share it. Send me an email at ALAux.Sec@legional.org, and I will get the information out. This is a great way to share ideas with one another, as well as gain support for your events. Information needs to be to me by no later than the 3rd of each month.

Cookbooks Available:

Here's a great way to support your Department. We have cookbooks available for purchase for \$25, **plus \$8 s/h, total \$33.** Please contact me at Department if you'd like to purchase one. These would make great Christmas gifts for family and friends – or to keep for yourself. Payment must be received before any will be mailed out.

Poppies:

Department now has pre-made poppies for sale. They are \$20/100, **plus \$8/100 s/h.** (i.e. 100 poppies = \$28, 200 = \$56, etc.) These will be sent on a first come/first serve basis. Payment must be received before any will be mailed out.

New Hours for Department, effective Jan 7:

Starting January 7, 2019, the Department Office will have **New Office Hours for the upcoming School Semester.** I will be in the office Monday and Wednesday from 8a- 12p and Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8a-4p. Monday's and Wednesday's are the only change to the office hours. I flipped my Office Hours to the morning on these two days as my classes are in the afternoon. I am sorry for the change, but with school, change is inevitable. I will, of course, still be checking email when out of the office and will answer any questions I can, but will get back to you as promptly as possible once I return if I am unable to answer your question when I am not in the office. I thank each of you for your patience and for allowing me to serve you.

Membership Question – Did you know?

- That no-one should be holding membership!
- Do you know what constitutes “holding membership?” Many believe that this is just holding on to New Member Applications and mailing in during times they think are key – but that is not the case. Holding membership is also when a member pays their dues to the Unit, and the Membership Chairman doesn't send the renewal payment into Department in a timely manner. I must process each one as quickly and efficiently as I can...and just think, I process every Unit – not just one. I stamp each application and transmittal with a “received” by and an “entered” stamp to make sure this process happens quickly. I want to make sure that our new members, as well as our current members are taken care of in the most expedient manner – each Membership Chairman should have the same goal. Without our Members, we have no Auxiliary. Let's all work together to make sure this happens. Let's get in the habit of NOT Holding Membership!

- Did you know when a member passes away that a Member Data Form MUST be completed and mailed to Department? This form requests the pertinent data that I need to input into the system to remove our precious Auxiliary Member from the roster, including the date of her passing. Please, DON'T mail me their membership card and write "Deceased" on it. This is not appropriate. I have had to research when members have passed away because the proper paperwork hasn't been sent in – please don't be *that* Membership Chairman.

Have a Membership Question you want to know about? Send me an email or letter and ask, because I'm sure others what to know as well. I will feature it here.

War Memorial:

Don't forget to purchase a brick in honor/memory of your beloved servicemember. This is a great way to honor their service and help restore the Alabama War Memorial in the process. Applications for the bricks can be found on our Department website under Dept. Links.

Education Scholarships:

Do you know of anyone who is eligible for our scholarships? Let them know we have them. Applications and requirements can be found on our Department website at www.alabamaamericanlegionauxiliary.com, under the About Tab, as well as the Dept Links Tab. Applications are accepted in the Department between January and March, but now is a good time for applications to be printed out and to start looking at requirements and gathering all information, referral letters, etc. that applicants will need.

Department Website:

Our Department Website – www.alabamaamericanlegionauxiliary.com – is constantly updating and changing. Make sure you check it out regularly for new information, so that you stay up-to-date with the latest happenings in the Department.

The Department Office will be closed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24th, 25th and 26th, 2018, for Christmas, as well as December 30th, January 1st and 2nd, 2019, for New Years.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to Everyone! Praying that everyone has a blessed and prosperous holiday season.

Christmas Poem 2018

Christmas is coming
 And who cares about the goose?
 I'm getting fat
 And all I want for Christmas
 Is my clothes to be loose
 Oh, please Dear Santa
 Won't you do something about that
 And while you're at it
 Send us some new members
 To join our great Auxiliary
 Ones to help us remember
 To celebrate and serve
 Each Veteran and the Military
 And of course, their family
 For they also deserve
 Our love and support
 Each and every day
 Throughout this Christmas
 And into the New Year
 So, here at Department
 We just want to say
 We love and treasure you all
 And wish you good cheer!

- Carol Tyson, Secretary