



## *American Legion Auxiliary Newsletter (334) 262-1176*

Department President, Sharon Atkins 2018-2019



*November 2018*

Theme for the year:

*Let Your Voice Be  
Heard for Our  
Veterans!*

Ladies,

Can you all believe it is November already?

With November comes our National Election Day, Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. I don't think there is a better way to thank you to our veterans than by going out and voting. Our veterans and active duty military fight every day for us to have and to KEEP that right. I know that Veteran Day activities have already started, and I look forward to being a part of the Veteran Day Parade in Birmingham, AL. I hope you will participate in some way in a Veterans Day Program or activity in your area. We have so much to thank our Veterans for!

If you live close to the Birmingham area come out on Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 2pm for the Annual National Veterans Day Parade. Birmingham, AL was home to a WWII veteran Raymond Weeks who in 1947 he led a delegation to Washington, D.C. To urge then Army Chief of Staff General Dwight Eisenhower to create a National holiday that honored all Veterans. In 1954, President Eisenhower signed legislation establishing November 11<sup>th</sup> as Veterans Day. Weeks led the first National Veterans Day Parade in 1947 in Alabama.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, let us all remember how BLESSED we are and BE THANKFUL for all we have! There are many ways to share your blessings with those who are less fortunate. You can donate a bag of groceries at your local grocery store, you could volunteer to help serve on Thanksgiving day at a local shelter or host a Thanksgiving dinner at your Unit. Remember to include your Jr's in your Veterans Day and Thanksgiving activities.

I would like to welcome 2 new Units to our American Legion Auxiliary family. Unit 1948 and 2019. Our membership is growing, and we are above our membership for this time last year. Let's keep working!

Trish Montgomery, Carol Tyson and I just got back from Mission Training in Springfield, Illinois. Our National Chairman shared a lot of good information with us and I am excited to bring this information back to you. They gave us some great ideals.

1. Make your meetings fun!
2. Reduce your meeting time by providing meeting agendas which include minutes of your last meeting.
3. Get to know your members by letting members tell something about themselves at every meeting.
4. Let members know that they were missed when they miss a meeting. Take a few minutes at your meeting for members to write a short letter telling the member that she was missed. Be sure to include meeting information so she will feel needed as well.
5. Have all members wear name tags, especially new members, so that they can place a name with a face.
6. Consider having a different hostess for each meeting.
7. Start meetings by telling about the good things that have happened to members or about the activities that the unit has participated in.
8. Educate members on the ALA programs by picking one to talk about at each meeting.
9. Pass out signup sheets asking members to sign up for which program they would like to help with.
10. Remember the 4 pillars of the ALA... Americanism, Children & Youth, National Security and VA&R. These are the basic principles of the ALA. Have fun as you teach and work these programs.

I would like to thank all the units that have invited me to join them at a Unit Meeting, District Meeting or Activity. I have enjoyed meeting members and hearing all the good things that you are doing! Please remember if you haven't sent me an email or letter requesting a visit that I would love to visit your Unit, so keep those invites coming!

Mid-Year Reports are due to Department Chairman's by December 20<sup>th</sup>. Things that should be included are events and activities with pictures, hours and veterans served.

Program Action Plan Books, Roster Books and Poppies are available at Department now. Please see our Department Secretary on how to order yours now.

I am looking forward to our Mid-Winter Conference, I hope you are too! I am looking forward to seeing you all there! Details are also available from our Department Secretary.

Sharon Atkins, President  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Alabama

**VA&R PROGRAM**

Hello Ladies,

I hope you all had a great Halloween and have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas.

I enjoyed my visit to William F Green for the fish fry last month. I'm eagerly awaiting my report on this. For all you VAVS's please speak with your Directors, Patient Advocate, and Director of activities to make sure they are turning in your hours. I'm scheduled for two other visits between now and Christmas, so if you haven't sent me an invitation yet please send me several dates to choose from.

As always, your sister in service,  
Trish Montgomery,  
1st Vice Dept of Alabama

**FYI**

District 35 will continue to collect needed items for those who lost everything from Hurricane Micheal. We will continue to carry needed items to Florida as long as there is a need. Many folks have lost everything, so any and all will be greatly appreciated. Many of these folks are fellow American Legion Family members, let's pull together and show our love along with help. Thank you one and all for supporting this, remember we never know what tomorrow holds.

Thank you all and May God Bless each of you and your families.

Iris Keen  
May your neighbors respect you, Trouble neglect you, The angels protect you, And heaven accept you.  
***God Bless You***

**POPPY PROGRAM**

To All Units,

With the holiday season fast approaching I would like to remind all about the Poppy Poster Contest being due for submission at Mid-Winter in January. If anyone needs the plan of action I will be glad to get it to them. I am available if anyone has any questions or needs any help. We look forward to a good showing as we work to achieve our goals in the Department.

Cissi Caton  
Poppy Chairman  
[Gray.cissi@gmail.com](mailto:Gray.cissi@gmail.com)  
Cell: 205.470.4469

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

I want to thank you all for your wonderful acts of kindness and service of love to those in areas affected by hurricanes and storms. Please continue your deeds and donations, as clean-up and help will be needed for months ahead. Please keep track of your hours, in-like donations, and actual deeds, and report them to me for Mid-Winter, by Dec.15, 2018.

If you have participated in "Purses for female vets," please let me know that too. (How many? Where distributed? Results?) If you helped me at Leadership, that counts too.

Service for others, not self is one of the American Legion Auxiliary's mission statements. So any kindness or help given to others is reportable. If I can be of an help, contact me. Remember, brand awareness could mean new members. Keep up the good work! Be safe! God Bless You!

In Service to You and Our Veterans  
Bonnie Dubuisson  
419 E Myrtle Ave  
Foley, AL. 36535  
C: 251-978-3034

**FINANCE:**

Just a reminder your 990/990ez/990N for fiscal year 1 July 2017-30 June 2018 taxes is due not later than 15 Nov 2018 to the IRS. Please complete and return the Certification of Audit and filing of IRS Form 990 in the Program Action Plan NLT 15 Dec 2018 to Finance Chairman, Cheryl Wheeler. Please bring items for the Silent Auction at Mid- Winter. Request all units forward a copy of your EIN letter from Internal Revenue service to Carol Tyson at the Department.

## **Americanism:**

What is this program, and why do we have it?

The Americanism program promotes patriotism and responsible citizenship. Americanism and the 2014-2019 ALA Centennial Strategic Plan: Promoting patriotism and responsible citizenship help us fulfill our brand promise (Goal 5) by giving U.S. citizens a chance to participate in our mission by feeling patriotic and demonstrating their support in an active, visible way.

Americanism Awards Deadlines and Submission Requirements:

Taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission is worth doing! It helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Just three simple steps to add your part to our national success story:

- 1) Please follow the instructions as you fill out the National Report and Awards Cover Sheet found in the awards section of the program Action Plan.
- 2) Provide details/examples about the activity as outlined in the award's materials and guidelines section.
- 3) Submit as indicated in the Annual Supplement to the Program Action Plan.

National Report and Awards Cover Sheet, Deadlines, and Americanism Committee contact information may be found on the Americanism committee page on the national website, [www.ALForVeterans.org](http://www.ALForVeterans.org).

### A. American Essay Contest

- 2018-2019 Theme: Who we are what we do, why we do it?
- All department adjudicated entries must be sent by the department chairperson to her National Division Chairperson emailed or postmarked by April 1, 2019.

Unit Award: Dorothy Pearl Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Program

- Deadline: June 1, 2019
- Send to National Division Chairperson postmarked or emailed by 5pm EST on the deadline listed above.

Department Award: Best Department Americanism Program

- Deadline: June 1, 2019
- Send to National Division Chairperson postmarked or emailed by 5pm EST on the deadline listed above.
- Americanism Reporting
- 

### Mid-Year Reports

Mid-Year reports reflect the program work of units in the department, and are intended as an opportunity for mid-year correction. Each department Americanism chairperson is required to submit a narrative report by January 5, 2019 to the Division Americanism Chairperson, plus copy the National Americanism Chairperson.

### Year-End Reports

Annual reports reflect the program work of units in the department, and may result in a national award for participants if award requirements are met. Each department Americanism Chairperson is required submit a narrative report by **May 15, 2019** to the Division Americanism Chairperson, plus copy the National Americanism Chairperson. Members and units should follow their department's protocol and deadlines.

### Americanism Reporting Important Dates to Remember

January 5, 2019: Mid-Year Report

April 1, 2019: Americanism Essay Contest Deadline for Students  
THEME: Who we are what we do, why we do it?  
Due: April 1, 2019

May 1, 2019: Year-End Report

May 15, 2019: Dorothy Pearl Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Program  
May 15, 2019: Best Department Americanism Program Award

Mail To: Sallie Daniels, Chairperson  
3916 Hilton Drive  
Mobile, AL 36693

Phone: (251) 643-1761  
E-Mail: [danielsred123@comcast.net](mailto:danielsred123@comcast.net)

## **NATIONAL SECURITY:**

The holidays are approaching at a speed only to that of Santa's Sleigh. There is much to be done by our members at this time of year. The obligations associated with National Security involve working with the men and women who are currently serving our nation; that includes active duty personnel, as well as, the National Guard and Reserve Units in Alabama. Check with the local unit to see if a part of their group might be on active duty and deployed. The wives or husbands and children of those soldiers would enjoy and appreciate anything your Unit can do to make the holidays a bit easier; and remember those men and women also have parents and extended families left behind who need us at this time of year.

Remember your help and assistance to those impacted by the recent disasters in the southern portion of our state are part of what we do for the National Security program. The victims of the hurricane still need help. This time of year, our members will have an opportunity to help others by providing gifts, food, and just a simple helping hand. Thanksgiving and Christmas will be very different for many families. Another program is **Wreaths Across America** and that deadline is November 15<sup>th</sup> to purchase a wreath for the grave of a veteran at one of the National Cemeteries. You can also volunteer at the cemeteries to place those wreaths. Some cities have similar programs that your Unit might participate with, if not, maybe your members could start such a program.

As a reminder, listed below are the challenges listed in our Program Action Plans.

### **Challenge to Members and Units:**

1. Download and review the National Security Plan of the 2017-2022 ALA Programs Action Plan
2. Look for active duty military members and families in your community. Once they are located follow-up regularly to meet their particular needs. Remember the extended families (mothers/fathers/grandparents/sisters/brothers) of those on active duty are also part this group.
3. Regularly observe the POW/MIA ceremony on the Unit level
4. Complete a Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) course.
5. Donate blood
6. Recognize the ROTC and JROTC cadets in your area. There are medals available through Emblem Sales that can be used at the awards ceremonies.

There is one other little event that is quickly approaching—Mid Year Report. That due date is December 20<sup>th</sup>. I hope to be able to contact each Unit's National Security Chairman before the 10<sup>th</sup> of December to touch base. Please call or email if you need any help. Thank you for all that you are doing to serve our Veterans. Remember "Let your voice be heard".

Judy Daughtry, NEC  
National Security Chairman  
334-332-0688  
[judydaughtry@charter.net](mailto:judydaughtry@charter.net)

**Fall Fish Fry**  
*William F. Green Veterans Home*  
*Bay Minette, Alabama*

District 33 gathered on Saturday, October 13, 2018 in Bay Minette, Alabama to provide a Fish Fry to the Veterans who are current residents of William F. Green Veterans Home. In order to do this, the American Legion Posts within the District pool their resources and meet at the Veterans Home to cook.

All foods that are served to the residents must be prepared and cooked on-site. That means that those who are doing the cooking have to bring all the equipment, food and workers with them. They have to be set up by a certain time in order to make sure that everything is cooked and ready to serve at a specified time. Then everything is cleaned up and packed away and taken home.

The American Legion Posts who were represented at this Fish Fry were Wallace-New American Legion Post 76 in Mobile, American Legion Post 44 in Gulf Shores, American Legion Post 250 in Fowl River, American Legion Post 99 in Foley, Denton-Drake American Legion Post 88 in Mobile, American Legion Post 164 in Citronelle and American Legion Post 199 in Fairhope. Also in attendance were American Legion Auxiliary Department officers President Sharon Atkins, First Vice President Trish Montgomery, Second Vice President Kathy Phillips and District 33 Auxiliary President Bonnie Dubuisson and District 33 Auxiliary Chaplain Betty Morris, and from the Department Sons of the American Legion Squadron, Assistant Adjutant Aaron Phillips.

One of the best things that happens at the fish fries is when those who are cooking and getting the food inside to the cafeteria take a minute and go in and speak to residents as they come to the dining room to wait for lunch to be served. The Veteran residents love this occasion and enjoy the visits immensely. Their lunch is fried fish, French fries, hush puppies and coleslaw. District 33 provides this meal twice a year in Biloxi and in Bay Minette. All of the Posts who were actively involved provided several people to prepare and cook the food.

Another effort was also being worked on this day. In the wake of Hurricane Michael, Department Auxiliary President Sharon Atkins and Vice President Trish Montgomery had committed to take any gathered supplies over to Dothan to help with clean-up and restoration of southeast Alabama and northeast Florida sites that needed help. They also carried monetary donations to be distributed among the victims. Several humanitarian efforts have been made by our area American Legion Posts to our neighbors on the eastern side of the state. Auxiliary Unit 199 President Mitzi Rollins presented a check to Sharon Atkins and Trish Montgomery to help with this effort.

Great big thank yous go out to Cathy and Paul Knoch, Carole Reid, Bonnie Dubuisson, Betty Morris, Jessica Turberville, Janet Carver, Steven Powell, Kathy and Aaron Phillips, Wanda Bosley, Lexie and Jim Solomon, Charles York, George York, Coach Carl Davis, and John McDough, President Sharon Atkins, and Vice President Trish Montgomery for their dedication to opportunities to serve our Veterans.





### **American Legion Auxiliary Education Program**

**American Education Week is November 12-16.**

**Let's Celebrate with our Schools and honor all individuals who are making a great difference in guaranteeing that every child gets a quality education.**

Here is a list of ideas for celebrating American Education Week at your schools:

- Place an ad in your local paper thanking all staff at your local schools
- Give each staff member a small treat in their mailbox at the school and include a tag of thanks from your unit
- Provide cookie/candy/veggie trays in the staff room
- Place an apple in each staff mailbox and include a tag of thanks from your unit
- Supply coffee, tea, sugar, and creamer for the staff lounge
- For smaller schools, a carry-in meal could be provided, such as soup in a crockpot
- Surprise them with cinnamon rolls in the morning one day
- Make posters to hang in the school and/or in local businesses
- A Public Service Announcement (PSA) on the local radio station

For an added detail, you could use the American Education Week cards that are fillable and ALA branded in whatever little gift of appreciation you bring to the school. They can be found on the Education program page when you log in to the Members Only section at [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org).

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***Fun fact: The American Legion was instrumental in founding American Education Week.***

***Distressed that 25 percent of the country's World War I draftees were illiterate and 9 percent were physically unfit, representatives of the NEA and the American Legion met in 1919 to seek ways to generate public support for education.***

***The conventions of both organizations subsequently adopted resolutions of support for a national effort to raise public awareness of the importance of education. In 1921, the NEA Representative Assembly in Des Moines, Iowa, called for designation of one week each year to spotlight education. In its resolution, the NEA called for: "An educational week ... observed in all communities annually for the purpose of informing the public of the accomplishments and needs of the public schools and to secure the cooperation and support of the public in meeting those needs."***

***The first observance of American Education Week occurred December 4-10, 1921, with the NEA and American Legion as the cosponsors. A year later, the then U.S. Office of Education joined the effort as a cosponsor, and the PTA followed in 1938.***

***Other co-sponsors are the U.S. Department of Education and national organizations including the National PTA, the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, the American Association of School Administrators, the National School Boards Association, the American Federation of Teachers, the American School Counselor Association, the Council of Chief State School Officers, the National School Public Relations Association, the National Association of State Boards of Education, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the National Association of Secondary School Principals.***

***American Education Week is always celebrated the week prior to the week of Thanksgiving.***

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☆ Additional ALA Education information, including more information on American Education Week as well as national scholarship applications, can be found on the Education program page when you log in to the Members only section at [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org)



# Registration for Mid-Winter Department of Alabama January 24-27, 2019

*The Grand Hotel  
One Grand Blvd, Point Clear, AL. 36564  
(251) 928-9201*

**Pre-Registration Deadline: January 4, 2019**

**\$15/person      Unit: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:( )** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:( )** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:( )** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:( )** \_\_\_\_\_

Mid-Winter will be held at the Grand Hotel in Point Clear. Please contact the hotel at (251) 928-9201 to make reservations as soon as possible. The dates are January 24-27, 2019. We hope to see EVERYONE at the Conference.

There will be a banquet on Saturday night hosted by the LEGION. If you are wanting to attend this banquet, please write a check out to THE AMERICAN LEGION for \$15/person for your ticket. Make sure to return the bottom portion of this with your check made out to **THE AMERICAN LEGION**, that states who is purchasing the banquet tickets and how many tickets you wish to purchase. You may send the check in the same envelope with your registration for Mid-Winter, however **DO NOT** include banquet money on the same check as your registration for Mid-Winter. **Registration is to be made out to Dept of Alabama ALA. Banquet tickets are to be made out to The American Legion.**

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Banquet Tickets for Mid-Winter:  
January 26, 2019

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15/ea = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check out to: THE AMERICAN LEGION**



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American Legion Auxiliary  
P O Box 606  
Montgomery, AL. 36101

**Phone**  
(334) 262-1176

**E-mail**  
ALAux.Sec@legional.org

Don't Forget to Let Your  
Voice Be Heard for Our  
Veterans!

## Key Dates:

**November 12, 2018** – Dept Ofc Closed in Observance of Veterans Day

**November 17, 2018** – District 12 C&B workshop at Unit 15 Decatur.

**November 22-23, 2018** - Thanksgiving Holiday  
We have a lot to be thankful for!  
The Department office will be closed.

**January 24-27, 2019**  
Mid-Winter Conference  
Grand Hotel  
One Grand Blvd, Point Clear, AL. 36564  
Phone: (251) 928-9201

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**  
P O BOX 606  
MONTGOMERY, AL 36101

