



Power Central

Members!

Be sure check out
the schedule for
the visit of our
National President
Carlene Ashworth.
Join us for any and
all events!

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Mid-Winter Conference A Success in Spite of the Weather

Hello, Members!

With ice and snow on the roadways, we decided that "the show must go on". Members came to Oklahoma City for the Mid-Winter Conference and President's Homecoming in spite of the weather.

Because attendance was down, there was no District competition at the Friday Night Bash. There was lots of delicious food and everyone had a great time. Members heard messages from chairmen and visited table displays describing many of our Auxiliary programs.

The Poppy Corsage contest was held and members voted on their favorite corsage. First place went to Ruby Wells. Congratulations, Ruby! Proceeds will be taken to the Awareness Assembly along with our Department's other donations to benefit the



Department President Ann Willits and Secretary of Veterans Affairs Rita Aragon at the President's Homecoming Banquet

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

It was an honor to have the newly appointed Oklahoma Secretary of Veterans Affairs speak at the President's Homecoming Banquet. Aragon is the first woman to hold this position and serves as Governor Mary Fallin's chief advisor on matters related to the policies and operations of the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs. She was a wonderful speaker and graciously agreed to pose for photographs after the Banquet.

Have fun as you continue to work with your Unit members – and **Power Up!**

Ann Willits,
Department President

Southern Division National Vice President Visits During the Christmas Tour

The Department of Oklahoma had the honor of hosting our Southern Division National Vice President in December. Pat Knight is from Virginia and she became so much a part of us during her stay that we didn't want to give her back to Virginia!

One of the events she attended was the Gifts for Yanks program at El Reno High School. She pitched in and helped carry gifts as students loaded them onto buses for the Oklahoma City VA Hospital.



SDNVP Pat Knight appreciated our Oklahoma hospitality and mementos!

Knight got a taste of Oklahoma as she dined at Toby Keith's and experienced our very cold wind at the National Memorial in Oklahoma City.

The final stop on our annual Christmas Tour was the Norman VA Center. Knight joined Department President Ann Willits and other members as our Veterans were honored. She enjoyed helping serve Christmas goodies to the residents and joined in as we sang Christmas carols.

A final stop to shop at a basket warehouse ended her visit to Oklahoma. What a gracious SDNVP she is!





May 29 – June 4, 2011

*The Power of One -
 "You are not here merely to make a living. You are here to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, and with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world. You impoverish yourself if you forget this errand."
 -Woodrow Wilson*

Recruit 3 Entry Forms

can be sent to the Department Headquarters Office by **anytime.**

Don't miss the chance to recognize the members who helped your Unit grow!

If you need a form,, call 405 528-4061

National President Carlene Ashworth Visits Oklahoma

Thursday April 28, 2011
Pops, Arcadia, 11:30 am – Lunch
Children's Home, Ponca City, 3:00 pm - Reception
Pearl's Crabtown, Oklahoma City, 6:00 pm - Dinner

Friday April 29, 2011
Oklahoma City National Memorial, Oklahoma City, 9:00 am - Tour
 Nonna's Euro-American Ristorante, Bricktown, 12:00 noon - Lunch
Lawton VA Center, Lawton, 3:00 pm – Tour and Reception

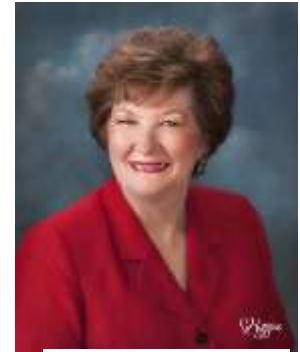
Saturday April 30, 2011
Oklahoma 89ers Day Parade, Guthrie, 11:00 am

Carlene Ashworth, the American Legion Auxiliary National President, will be in Oklahoma in late April.

For her theme as national president, she has adopted "The Power of One" and encourages all members with these words:

"One thought, one word, one smile, one attitude, one action—one idea can launch a transformation; the collective power of one Auxiliary can change the world."

She firmly believes in returning to the organization's roots by involving the community in activities that will make them more aware of who members are and what they do.



National President Carlene Ashworth

Join Us ...

Please consider joining us for any of the events on the left. If you can come to an event, please call Sue Heil at 405 414-6416 so a place can be reserved just for you.

45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Deploys



Department President Ann Willits and about a dozen more Department members of the American Legion Auxiliary attended the 45th Infantry Deployment Ceremony held on February 16, 2011 at the Oklahoma City Arena in Oklahoma City.

Thousands crowded downtown Oklahoma City locations Wednesday to say goodbye to Oklahoma National Guard members preparing to deploy to Afghanistan. About 3,400 members of the Guard's 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team will train for the next few months before deploying in early summer. It will be the largest deployment for the state since the Korean War.

The troops are preparing to begin training at Camp Gruber, near Muskogee, and will receive more training at Fort Polk, La., before they head overseas, likely in June. The 45th will take part in both offensive and defensive operations in Afghanistan and will be in the thick of fighting there.

Read more: <http://newsok.com/45th-infantry-deployment-ceremony-held-in-downtown-okc/article/3541375#ixzz1GKbZbBcO>

The Memorial Poppy

Have you considered decorating with poppies?



You can use them on your head table at meetings or dinners. Put them on gifts or boxes that you send to the troops. Perhaps you can decorate your Unit's bulletin Board with poppies.

Poppies can be distributed any time throughout the year. Order yours today at: 918 682-7341.

Department President's Special Project



Department President Ann Willits chose the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival as her special project. To earn the funds, chocolate candy bars are being sold.

If you, your Unit or your District checked out candy bars to sell, please forward the funds to the Department as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact Elsie at (405)528-4061.

Thanks to everyone who supported this project. It was a great success!

Make your plans to attend the Department Convention

Biltmore Hotel Oklahoma

July 8-10, 2011

Americanism Essays Reflect Students Views on Patriotism

The purpose of the Americanism Program is to inspire, recognize, and perpetuate responsible citizenship through education and acts of patriotism, in order to raise awareness and increase appreciation of the price paid for our fundamental freedoms.

Americanism simply means "strong affection or support for the United States." And we work hard to promote this to our youth. Raising their awareness now ensures our country's future leaders will continue to honor and revere the sacrifices that make the United States of America the "land of the free and the home of the brave!"

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary sponsors an Americanism Essay Contest for students in grades 3-12. Grade levels are divided into five Classes. One award in each of the five classes will be presented in each Division. Winners will receive \$50.00 and a \$50.00 honorarium in the student's name to the National President's Scholarship fund.

Essay Theme: "How can I encourage my friends to show pride in being an American?"

Be sure to use the required cover sheet on all Americanism Essay Contest entries.

Americanism National Chairman – Ann Rehbein



"Everyone can contribute to the Americanism program every day. Fly your flag, show respect and support for our troops and their families and participate in activities that highlight the symbol of our country."

Upcoming Events

April, 2011

- 2 – 6th District Convention
Lawton
- 9 – 5th District Convention
Norman
- 16 – 4th District Convention
Ada
- 24 – Happy Easter!
- 28-30 – National President
In Oklahoma
- 30 – 89ers Parade, Guthrie

May, 2011

- 14 – 1st District Convention
Vinita
- 21 – 8th District Convention
Ponca City
- 29 – Girls State Begins

June, 2011

- 1-4 – Girls State Continues
- 11 – 3rd District Convention
Ada

New National ALA Website!

The new ALA website is an interactive source of information that will deliver real-time, multichannel access to Auxiliary information for our members and the community. Several cool features are incorporated into the new website:

- Auxiliary videos – a long-awaited and often requested function from members
- "share" technology so users can share pages via Facebook, Twitter, and other social media
- improved search tools
- more descriptive and informational Auxiliary program pages
- rotating images that will display programs, photos and services on our homepage
- photo galleries
- vastly improved department/state contact pages
- many pages featuring Auxiliary history
- more ways to appeal to potential Auxiliary members
- easy to find ALA calendar of events
- photos of real Auxiliary members throughout vs. stock images

<http://www.alaforveterans.org>

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Our personal connection to the heroes we serve fuels our passion, making sure the mission is met. The powerful results they have achieved as veterans, active military, and their families receive what they need are due to the dedication of our members. It is a powerful mission, led by passionate servant leaders.



National is on the Web!

See us at:
www.legion-aux.org

And now ...

Our Department on The Web!

ala-ok.org

Music!



Music is the international language understood by all

All Units are reminded to play or sing the *National Anthem* at all their gatherings. Review the Music Program's Plan of Action and report what your Unit is doing.

President Ann Willits appointed D.J. Matulewicz (Tulsa) to be the Music Chairman due to the resignation of Cathy Gifford. When Matulewicz prepares her report for the Book of Reports, she needs information for that report. Be sure to include information on the Consolidated Report Form about your musical activities. Enclose a narrative paragraph or two on how you use music. This will ensure your Unit's information being included appropriately for the year.

Auxiliary Emergency Fund

When a sudden financial crisis befalls an eligible Auxiliary member, the Auxiliary Emergency Fund may be able to provide temporary emergency assistance when no other source of help is available. The AEF, on occasion, could be a helping hand for a struggling member in need of food, shelter, or utilities for her family

when a natural disaster or other calamity strikes.

Only through the generosity of Auxiliary members has the AEF remained an available resource for members in tragic times. See your Plan of Action for details on application or to donate. Remember – this is members helping members!

Membership: Congratulations to the Units That Have Met Their Numeric Objective (Quota)!

District	Town	Unit	Date
6	Comanche	258	August 4, 2010
7	Vici	76	August 21, 2010
8	Medford	37	August 24, 2010
1	Pawhuska	97	September 23, 2010
2	Fort Gibson	20	September 27, 2010
4	Coalgate	242	September 28, 2010
5	Blanchard	261	September 29, 2010
8	Aline	152	October 1, 2010
7	Hobart	117	October 6, 2010
6	Ryan	183	October 12, 2010
5	Noble	245	October 19, 2010
6	Walters	155	October 25, 2010
8	Billings	172	October 29, 2010
5	Lindsay	23	November 1, 2010
6	Okarche	206	November 1, 2010
1	Hominy	142	November 17, 2010
8	Goltry	43	November 23, 2010
6	Apache	225	November 23, 2010
4	Konawa	70	November 24, 2010
8	Morrison	343	December 31, 2010
8	Guymon	31	January 11, 2011
7	Gould	327	January 24, 2011
1	Grove	178	January 24, 2011
3	Bokoshe	75	January 24, 2011
7	Cheyenne	81	January 24, 2011
2	Braggs	233	January 25, 2011
5	Purcell	42	February 8, 2011
6	Ft Sill	193	February 9, 2011
5	Moore	184	February 18, 2011
5	Yale	161	February 24, 2011
5	Guthrie	58	March 8, 2011
6	Mustang	353	March 14, 2011

As the nation's largest patriotic women's service organization, the strength and influence of the American Legion Auxiliary is derived from its members. The Membership Committee works to ensure the future growth and prosperity of the organization by partnering with units, departments, and divisions to develop strategies to retain current members, recruit new ones, and engage all in mission-related activities. Current members renew their memberships when they believe the Auxiliary continues to offer them something of value in their lives.

Sometimes you have to go back before you can go forward. The founders of the American Legion Auxiliary were not worried about membership; they worried about veterans and their children. Showing their communities what they stood for and who they were was enough to inspire a great surge in membership. We can do the same.