



Department of Oklahoma

July Bulletin



From the Department Secretary/Office Director -

Greetings Members of the Department of Oklahoma! I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working in the department office, talking with members across our great state, and listening to your needs. We are planning to incorporate ways to better serve our members, Units, and Districts. We look forward to another year.

A couple reminders to better help me serve you in the department office. Please write the Unit and District number on all correspondence including forms, checks, and notes. Send an updated and completed Transmittal, Mandatory Contributions, New Member application, Unit/Member Data form, etc. with all checks. Saves a lot of time on my end versus making phone calls to members and/or Unit officers to inquire. This will truly make all our lives easier. I can email or snail mail forms if need be, and you can always find them on the website. We should have extra copies at the various meetings and conferences. Appreciate hearing from you so we can mutually help one another.

Thank you for supporting our Veterans, Armed Forces, their families, and the children & youth in our communities!

Kim Vincent, Department Secretary/Office Director
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auxdeptok@sbcglobal.net



Americanism - What a great time to show our enthusiasm for our love of America!! Fly your flag high every day in your yard, on your car, or in what you wear. PROUD AMERICAN.

Janet Vincent, Americanism Chair
405-880-1279 janet.vincent@okstate.edu



From the desk of the **Constitution and Bylaws** - The year 2020 has certainly opened many eyes, and everyone has been living through a history-making season of our lives. Please remember that due to the significant changes made to the National Constitution and Bylaws at the 2019 National Convention, EVERY Unit and District must now go in and update their governing documents. I know that governing document updating is not something anyone of us like to deal with, but sometimes we have to do what we don't want to do. One thing to remember is that once your Constitution and Bylaw Committee prepares its draft, it needs to be sent to me for review. I will critique, mark it up and send it back to you. Many times my comments will be asking you questions so that you consider issues that may have slipped your considerations, but that can be make it or break it. We will continue to repeat the exchange of comments until everyone is satisfied. At that point, the documents must be presented to your Unit/District body for consideration and adoption. Once you have adopted the documents, there will be some housekeeping that you will do so that it is clearly visible as to the date the revisions were made. When that is all completed, please send a copy to the Chair and to the Department office. I am available and willing to work with you as you proceed through the process. **NOTE:** My mailing address is changing; if mailing, please send documents to: Patsy S. Chinn, C&B Chair, P O Box 238, Pawhuska, OK 74056-0238

Patsy Chinn, Constitution & Bylaws Chair
918-906-2048 patsyvarnell@aol.com



HELLO THERE from **Finance** Chairman Carol Blosch. We are currently in the process of completing the posting of last year's finances to the previous Quick Books program. Madam President Jody is working diligently from home to get caught up, enabling our CPA to finish out last year's financial reports and file taxes. Past Department President Nancy was also very helpful. The Coronavirus has really affected schedules. So thankfully, we have been granted an extension. We have purchased the updated Quick Books program and installed it on the laptop computer. We will begin implementing a new process to keep track of current

and future financials. It will make things more efficient. We will also be using a different format for the new 2020-2021 Budget. This new budget format will also streamline the process. We have taken measures to reduce expenses such as building utilities and maintenance issues, and unnecessary purchases. I am sure you have also. We will get through this challenging time. Together We Can Do This. Speaking of budgets, I want to emphasize how important it is to develop a budget for your unit and district. It will help guide you throughout the year to plan for expenses and identify the income needed to work your programs and conduct business. Good prior planning for financial needs can ensure a more successful year of serving our Veterans. Best of luck to each of you!

Carol Blosch, Finance Chair
405-714-1310 bloschs@yahoo.com



The **Gifts for Yanks** program is a time when Units and Districts are asked to remember our Veterans as their participation in Christmas is a prime time to assist with this program. The Gifts to the Yanks Who Gave program was instituted in 1944 to remember our hospitalized War Veterans. The American Legion Auxiliary has maintained this worthy program continuously since its inception by distributing gifts annually to each of our Veteran patients at all the VA Hospitals and VA Centers in Oklahoma.

Carolyn Christensen, Gifts for Yanks Chair
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The **Girls State** Committee and Staff for the 2020 ALA Oklahoma Girls State program are still saddened by the fact that we were unable to have our program this year. We appreciate the support we have received from our units and members throughout the state. The Committee is currently working with the university to get a date confirmed for the 2021 session. We look forward to keeping you updated.

Jennifer Shaw, Girls State Director
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Greetings from your **Department Historian**. The Historian's purpose is to accurately record the accomplishments and significant events that occur on the national, department, district/county, and unit level during the course of her term. Record the American Legion Auxiliary's history through the eyes of its members. The history of the American Legion Auxiliary begins in November 1919 and continues with you. The organization's history, like any other history, is more than names and dates. It is about its membership and how it developed the ALA's programs and projects to fulfill our mission of serving veterans, military, and their families who sacrifice so much for this country of ours. An annual report is not required; however, a year-end summary and mid-year progress report are suggested as tools to gauge the direction and effectiveness of department and unit activities.

Ruth Thacker, Historian Chair
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The **Junior Activities** program inspires active participation in members age 17 and under so that they will become engaging, productive members who will want to continue their American Legion Auxiliary membership into adulthood. Please see attachment.

Sue Heil, Junior Activities Chair
405-414-6416 m.heil@juno.com



As the nation is undergoing a small set back our **Legislative** representatives have been working for our military and Veteran families. We had only one unit report their efforts.

Our Legion Family Legislative has two items they are really working hard on. One is VA to ALL WWII Veterans. This will let any veteran get VA help without all the paperwork and medical reports.

The second is The Coast Guard Authorizations Act. Our Coast Guard are not getting paid while the government was shut down but many still were on

duty. This Act would give them the pay that our regular military also get.

To help go to alaforveterans.org and click on the Legislative link. Then hit the link for update info and it will take you to the Legions Legislative site where you can send a message to our representatives on these two items.

Thank you for everyone's hard work and please send a report on what you are doing in your community.

Ilene West, Legislative Representative
918-852-8085 impwest67@gmail.com



Our goal for **Membership** the upcoming year will be one new member per number of units in our department. We have the same incentive awards as last year. Thank you for all you do! Please see attachment.

Valerie Padgett, Membership Chair
918-926-0480 val75401@yahoo.com



Greetings from your Department **Poppy** Chairman!
It has been a very unique year, trying to celebrate all things Auxiliary while Covid-19 tried to ruin our fun, but we Auxiliary members know how to persevere and "Get It Done" one way or another. Opportunities now arise for new and better ideas to make sure "Poppies" continue to be in the public eye. With 4th of July celebrations soon to begin, let's think about honoring our "Little Miss Poppy's" (if you have one) in your parades or at your picnics all the while reminding the public that Poppy money is used year round to help our veterans and veteran's families, from transportation to appointments, food boxes or paying bills (during this time of struggle), to providing Wi-Fi or Hot Spots wherever they are lacking, to help keep communication and learning available to those where traditional internet does not exist. March, ride or walk and share your Poppy's with pride, and let's show our communities that the American Legion Auxiliary is here for another 100 years. Let me know what your group is doing this year.

"We Can Do It!" Deborah Glen, Poppy Chair
918-397-0655 ddglen@gmail.com



The **Public Relations** committee plans to continue to provide update information to all ALA members through public relations materials and online resources. We will continue to keep our members updated on social media such as Facebook and our state website. The dates for the awards and reports will stay the same. The year will change to 2021.

Thea Anderson, Public Relations Chair
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Greetings from "**Rosie**" & **Department President!**
This has been an interesting year! "Rosie", the ALA and I were broken, in the beginning we had no Department Secretary/Office Director, we learned to keep things running smoothly & to be able to train properly ...

... in November 2019 things were starting to look up with the Home Depot renovation (Yea!) ...

... in February 2020 we hired a new Department Secretary/Office Director Kim Vincent (Yea!), training began and all the sudden ...

... PANDEMIC arises!!!

We managed to get through so far and are beginning to heal!

With the new 2020-2021 year nearly here, let us **band** together, and bring **harmony** to all our projects! With **helping hands and voices**, don't "**B**" **flat**, strike a **chord** and bring joyous **music** to the ALA this next year! Our officer's "**staff**" want to "**C**" **major** improvements with Oklahoma ALA. We all should say, it's no **treble** at all. "**We Can Do It!**" **"Together We Can!"**

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