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April 2010 Newsletter

WOW!! Our Spring Conference is now history. What a wonderful turnout, we had 10 Units represented at the conference. We announced the winners of our District awards and elected a new slate of officers. More to come about the conference later in the newsletter. What about this weather, one day I wait on Santa Claus to come because its so cold, then the next day I wait for the Easter Bunny because it warmed up just a little and the wind does not help.

Membership – as of March 19, 2010 we are at 85.52%. We've dropped down to 5th place again. We had a couple of Units turn in membership so that should help out. We have lowered our number needed to be a quota Unit to 284. That's not too bad, I still think we can get a lot closer to than 284.

April is Children and Youth Month. The purpose of the Children and Youth programs is to work collaboratively with The American Legion to direct and sponsor programs and services that provide care and protection for our nation's children, especially those of our military and veterans.

The Auxiliary's Children and Youth program provides care and strives to improve conditions for all children. The program works to preserve the integrity of the family unit and takes a realistic approach to the needs of children by considering the physical and spiritual, as well as the emotional and educational aspects, of each situation. The Children and Youth program cooperates with many other public and private community agencies and organizations and supports essential legislation for children at the national, state, and local levels. In some cases, the program offers direct financial assistance and services to individual children or to the families of veterans. Auxiliary members also contribute to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, which was established in 1954 to fund special programs and projects, which emphasize preventative solutions to difficult children's issues. Educating members and the general public about these issues is a primary goal of the Auxiliary's Children and Youth program.

The federal government has launched, "Helping America's Youth," a Web site that helps you determine your community's needs related to children and youth and how develop collaborations and local solutions. <http://www.helpingamericasyouth.org>.

6th District Spring Conference

The 2010 6th District Spring Conference was held on Saturday, March 20, 2010 at Robert A. Burns Post 16. Unit 16's President, Millie Fitzmorris welcomed everyone to the Post, while DEC Carolyn Tate introduced our guest; in attendance was our Department President Kathy Thistrup, Department President Elect Barbara White, Department 1st Vice President Monique Batiste, Department Secretary Cheryl Bossenmeyer, and Past Department President Marilyn Beauford.

Chaplain Sheila Brunett conducted a very beautiful memorial service for our deceased members from the past year.

All of the District Officers presented awards to the Units that met their membership challenges. Quite impressive.

Then we had the presentation of the District Awards. The envelope please and the winners are:

Americanism – Honorable Mention – Tucker A. Gregoire – Unit 258
Winner: Leander J. Kinchen – Unit 47

Children and Youth – Leander J. Kinchen – Unit 47

Community Services – Leander J. Kinchen – Unit 47

Education – Tucker A. Gregoire – Unit 258

Junior Activities – Tucker A. Gregoire – Unit 258

National Security – Tucker A. Gregoire – Unit 258

Poppy – Nicholson – Unit 38

Public Relation – Leander J. Kinchen – Unit 47

Special Olympics – Certificates of Appreciation
Robert A. Burns – Unit 16
Leander J. Kinchen – Unit 47
Hunter Fabre – Unit 248

Tucker A. Gregoire – Unit 258
Ricard-Stewart – Unit 504

VA & R – Tucker A. Gregoire – Unit 258

Junior History Book – Savannah Thompson – Tucker A. Gregoire - Unit 258
Senior History Book – Jane Duracher – Robert H. Burns – Unit 16

Junior Prayer Book – Balyen Vicknair – Tucker A. Gregoire – Unit 258
Senior Prayer Book – Irene DeMars – Tucker A. Gregoire – Unit 258

Outstanding Junior Member of the Year – Shelbilyn Mott – Leander J. Kinchen
– Unit 47

Auxiliary Member of the Year – Joy Gregerson – Tucker A. Gregoire
– Unit 258

Unit President of the Year – no entries

And now for your new slate of Officers for the 2010 – 2011 year:

Area Presidents

Area A – Carol Johanson
Area B – Juliana Roberson
Area C – Ruth Nutefall
Area D – Hattie B. Johnson
Area E – Mary Higginbotham
Area F – Barbara LeJeune
Area G – Nell Martin

Officers

President – Kathy Mott
1st Vice President – Mary Higginbotham
2nd Vice President – Natalie Chevalier
Historian – Sheila Brunett
Chaplain – Kathy Hughes

All other officers are appointed. Kathy Mott will announce her appointed Officers at a later date.

Election for the Delegate to attend the 2010 National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from August 27 – September 2, 2010.

Delegate – 6th District President Barbara LeJeune
1st Alternate – Sylvia Anthony
2nd Alternate – Monique Batiste

The 6th District President's Project was to award Certificate of Continuous Years to all members in the 6th District that has over 50 years of members. Fifty ladies will receive this certificate. Carol Johansen and Doris LeBlanc received their certificates at the conference. All other certificates will be mailed to the members.



Carol Johansen – Unit 16



Doris LeBlanc – Unit 81

Both of these ladies have served as 6th District Presidents. Ladies thank you for all your years of dedicated service to this district.

Ethel Theriot, Department Ways and Means Chairman, announced that the Department will be having another basket raffle at the State Convention in June. Ladies again I have to ask for donations. Since the piggy bank was a big hit at the Mid Winter Conference we will be doing another one, this time the piggy will be decorated to show that he is a Saints fan. So again we need to fill the piggy bank. Please send your donations to me: Barbara LeJeune, 13917 Ventress Road, Ventress, LA 70783. It is so hard for me to cash a check if it is paid to the order of the Auxiliary, make it payable to me. As I receive the checks you will get a card from me informing you that I have received your donation.

As you know we had a raffle to raise money for our upcoming Department President Monique Batiste. We raffled off two pearl and crystal necklaces and earrings, both donated by Marilyn Beauford. Before the conference I had a total of what was collected, but lots of people brought their money to the conference and I need to get with Ms. Hattie B. to find out the actual total we received from the raffle. The two winners of the raffle were Detachment Commander Jimmie Knight and Tucker A. Gregoire Unit 258. To everyone who assisted with the raffle thank you for all your work and I know Monique is also very thankful.

The next day a lot of the members from the 6th District attended the annual Department Easter Party at the Louisiana Veterans Home in Jackson. Some 32 Veterans enjoyed an evening of playing bingo and then enjoying refreshment from

Sylvia Anthony's famous chicken salad sandwiches, chips, pickles, deviled eggs, cakes, donuts, dyed eggs and drinks. All in attendance had a great time.



Units attending the party were from:

Robert H. Burns – Unit 16

Leander J. Kinchen – Post and Unit 47

Hunter Fabre – Post, Unit and Squadron 248

Tucker A. Gregoire – Unit 258

Coming Events

Special Olympics – Southeastern University in Hammond – May 22, 2010

Department Convention – Best Western in Alexandria – June 11 – 13, 2010

Department President Kathy Thistrup's testimonial dinner – Best Western in

Alexandria - Friday, June 11, 2010 - cash bar at 6:00 pm – dinner at 7:00 pm
if anyone is interested I have 2 more tickets left. They are \$27.00 a piece

Department President Elect Barbara White Reception – Best Western in

Alexandria – Saturday, June 12, 2010 starting around 6:30 pm – free of charge

LA Girls State – Northwestern State University – June 27 – July 3, 2010

DEC Meeting and Workshop – Holiday Inn in Lafayette – August 6 – 8, 2010

National Convention – Milwaukee, Wisconsin – August 27 – September 2, 2010

Well I think this is it for now. After this newsletter, I will only have 2 more newsletters to write. What am I going to do in my spare time?

For God and Country

Barbara LeJeune

6th District President