

Membership News
August 15, 2008

Well we made it through DEC, held in Baton Rouge at the Holiday Inn South on August 9, 2008. Our Department Membership Team came in with a blast dancing down the aisles and throwing bubble gum and tootsie pops. When we arrived at the front of the room the membership team performed all of the district dances to the song, "Land of 1000 Dances". All of the audience stood up and danced along with us. Membership Chairman welcomed everyone and wished everyone a great year in membership. Her project is VIM membership. A plaque will go to the unit that signs up the most new VIM members this year. Next Rozella Walters gave a presentation of different suggestions of how to get members to renew their dues early, and how to get new members. Monique Batiste explained all of the Department Awards that any one member, Unit and District can win this year, while Barbara White explained the National Awards. Kathy Thistrup broke the news to everyone of what skit we will be performing at Mid Winter. It is very important for all the districts to participate for this skit to be successful. We are going to have a lot of fun with this one. More details will follow.

This year we have a traveling pin. The District President and the District Membership Chairman with the highest % of membership at DEC will receive these pins. If at the 1st target date that district is still the highest they get to keep the pin for that period of time. If another district is higher by the 1st target they will have to mail that district the pins. We have 4 target dates this year; these dates will determine who receives the pins next. Whoever is the highest at the last target date will be able to keep the pins. And the recipients of the pins at DEC are

CONGRATULATIONS

EMILY LEBLANC- 7TH DISTRICT PRESIDENT
LOU MOTT - 7TH DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

The pins are a clear rhinestone of a couple dancing.

The target dates for 2008-2009 are as follows:

Target #1	50%	September 26, 2008
Target #2	65%	November 12, 2008
Target #3	75%	January 23, 2009
Target #4	100%	May 31, 2009

Congratulations to Unit 309 – Grand Isle for reaching 100%, they now join Unit 26 – Jeanerette, 289 – Parks, and 328 Pierre Part. Great Job, Ladies!!!

As of August 15, the standing of the districts is as follows:

1st place – 1st District – 40.51%
2nd place – 3rd District – 39.22%
3rd place – 7th District – 36.98%
4th place – 2nd District – 31.38%
5th place – 6th District – 27.97%
6th place – 5th District – 23.45%
7th place – 4th District – 13.61%
8th place – 8th District – 12.26%
Department Totals - 31.17%

Ladies, that is some impressive numbers for being so early in the game. Keep collecting those renewals and signing up new ones. Watch out 7th district, I think the 1st and 3rd are trying to take your pins away.

President Henry is offering a special award, “President’s Award”. The award will go to all units that are at 100% or over by her birthday, October 17, 2008.

At DEC the Units that were in attendance should have picked up their Department Membership Awards book. If you picked up the book and you are not the president of your unit, please give the award book to your unit president. If you were not there they will be mailed out to the presidents of your unit. I will be leaving on Wednesday, August 20, for the National Convention and will be back on August 26, so I will put them in the mail when I get back. I will also be mailing the awards books to all area president, district presidents and district membership chairman. Please use this book as a tool when contacting your units, by discussing the different awards, etc.

Membership Party: When: Wednesday, November 5, 2008

Time: 10:00 – Until

Where: Department Headquarters

Why: Fun Food Door Prizes

To mingle with fellow members of the
Auxiliary, Legion and SONS

Win \$25.00 – bring in membership – your

Units name will be in a drawing

We will accept any monetary donations or

Any of your favorite dishes

You can contact anyone on the Department Membership Team for questions.

Larry Abshire, from the 7th district is the Department Membership Chairman for the American Legion, since he holds the same chairmanship as I do, I challenged him.

The Challenge

Highest % of membership by Mid Winter

The Stakes

If the American Legion Wins

I will have to donate \$100.00 to the Department Commander's Project

If the Auxiliary Wins (and we will)

Larry will have to donate \$100.00 to President Henry's Project
\$50.00 to Child Welfare

And

on Saturday at Mid Winter he will have to
Wear a ladies wig, earrings, makeup and a tiara the whole day

I kindly offered to buy the wig, earrings, makeup and tiara to help
Defray the cost since he will have to come up with \$150.00

OK, now I need your help we need to get that membership in because I would personally like to see Larry as a red head.

This column is not only for the Department Membership Chairman, if there is anyone in your unit that you want to brag on that is working membership or share with everyone ideas on getting new or renewed members, please email me and I will gladly include your article with mine. Great things happen when you share good news.

I think that's all for now, will get you all an update when I get back from Phoenix.

Barbara LeJeune
Department Membership Chairman