

# THE ARKANSAS LEGIONNAIRE

MARCH 2023

VOLUME 104 NUMBER 3

A Publication of The American Legion Department of Arkansas

## Duties of the Post Service Officer

### The American Legion Post Service Officer

Legionnaires, I am posting this information taken directly from The Post Service Officer Guide that is Published by The American Legion. I felt it necessary to do so mainly because so many of us use are under the impression that a Veteran Service Officer (VSO), and Post Service Officer (PSO) are interchangeable, they are not. In fact, they are markedly different, a VSO is accredited through the Office of General Counsel (OGC), a division of the Department of Veterans Affairs. It is not common practice for PSOs to be accredited, though some may be.

The American Legion's post service officer (PSO) is a volunteer position within an individual post. A PSO serves as a link between the veteran or dependent and a representative holding American Legion accreditation. An effective PSO understands benefits afforded to veterans and dependents; however, the PSO is not authorized to file any claims on behalf of the claimant. PSOs serve as valuable resources to veterans in local posts to ensure that our veterans and their dependents receive their earned benefits. The American Legion has created this guide to assist PSOs in their duties.

Each PSO should have readily available the contact information for various resources in their local area that could be beneficial to veterans and their dependents. These resources can include, but are not limited to:

- American Legion department service officer (DSO)
- County/local representatives with American Legion accreditation
- Agencies for senior citizens
- State and local nursing homes
- Homeless shelters
- State and national cemeteries
- Department of Veterans Affairs contact information, including phone numbers and website addresses

Dependent upon location, state and municipal governments may provide benefits to disabled veterans; PSOs should contact DSOs and/or local accredited representatives to gather information that could be provided through state government programs.

PSOs are encouraged to maintain a record of veterans seeking the DSOs assistance. Through maintaining the record, a tracking of services can be provided. The gathering of this information can be of assistance to both each department and national headquarters. As The American Legion is conducting an increasing number of outreach events to assist our nation's veterans, information gathered by PSOs are critical to determine the locations of various outreach events. While The American Legion does not require membership to assist veterans, we do encourage PSOs and DSOs to have information available to inquiring veterans. Many veterans are unaware of the services The American Legion provides; upon working with dedicated PSOs and DSOs, many ask questions pertaining to membership. The American Legion is only as strong as its membership and volunteers; as a result, we encourage our service officers to have the information readily available and welcome them to the organization.

The American Legion appreciates the dedication of PSOs and their willingness to assist with veterans and their dependents. It is through the dedication of volunteers that we can not only assist the 2.4 million members that comprise this organization, but the 21 million veterans and their families nationwide.

The American Legion is proud to have such dedicated Post Service Officers (PSO) that are willing to assist any and all Veterans and their families with the myriad of benefits and services offered by The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Below is a list of resources for Post Service Officers and Legionnaires to utilize freely.

[The PACT Act And Your VA Benefits | Veterans Affairs](#)  
[Fact Sheets - Veterans Benefits Administration \(va.gov\)](#)

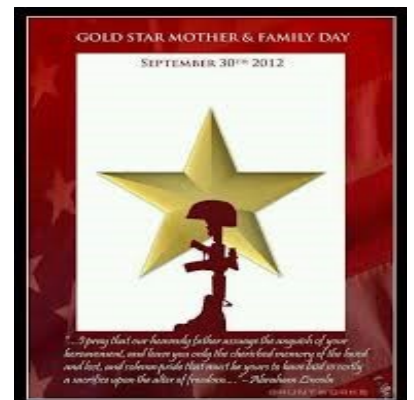
\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **Sheryl Sandberg:** \*  
\* **“Motivation comes** \*  
\* **from working on** \*  
\* **things we care** \*  
\* **about; It also comes** \*  
\* **from working with** \*  
\* **people we care** \*  
\* **about.”** \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

## IN THIS ISSUE

1. Post Service Officer Guidance
2. Legionnaires Storm The Hill
3. Department Correspondence
4. Department Candidates
5. What's Happening
6. Veterans Claim Clinic
7. From The Auxiliary President
8. Auxiliary President
9. Membership /Juniors Report
10. 100 Year Auxiliary Invite
11. Department Candidates
12. For The Good of the Legion



A Tribute To Mothers, Fathers and  
Gold Star Families; We Honor  
You! Never Forgotten!



# Arkansas Legionnaires Storm the Hill



On February 28<sup>th</sup>, a contingency of Arkansas Legionnaires walked the Senate and Congressional halls in Washington D.C. to urge legislators to support The American Legion's legislative agenda. Members of the Legion Family were: Team A: Commander William Sheets; Adjutant Bob

Renner; Judge Advocate Michael Westergren; Legislative Commission Member/ NEVC Patrick Phillips; National Security Council Member. Kevin Caldwell; Aux. Dept. Membership Chair Jamie Phillips; Team B: Dept. Legislative Chairman & National Veterans Benefits Comm. Member., VSO Antoine Gordon; Nate Todd; Foreign Relations Comm./Legislative Council Member. Dallas Erdman; National Legislative Council Vice Chair, John Hendrick; Aux. Dept. VA&R Chair, Patricia Murray; Aux. Dept. SWVP, Pearl Gordon; Legislative Council Member, NEC/VA&R liaison Mary Erdman.

As team leader of Team B, the following is a brief synopsis of our visits with Senators Tom Cotton and John Boozman and Congressman French Hill. Prior to our visits, Adjutant Renner provided the Legislative Agenda to the legislators which facilitated our visits and enhanced our discussions. Due to the number of agenda items, not all issues could be covered adequately, therefore the team chose to elaborate on what we believed to be priority issues.

**Suicide prevention:** John Hendrick first mentioned that the reported estimated number of veteran suicides is believed to be much higher than what is being reported for a variety of reasons. He elaborated on the need for the VA to be willing to utilize the various modalities available to combat suicide and for our legislators to monitor their progress. John also mentioned his concern that suicide is a payable death benefit by SGLI (Service members Group Life Insurance) which pays \$500,000 upon death of a service member. This was mentioned as a possible incentive for a suicidal person.

**Modernization of VA Health Care:** Nate Todd spoke about the modernization of the VA system and the need for VA to adjust to the needs of female veterans. There also is a need for IT updating in the modernization of VA.

**PACT Act:** Dallas Erdman elaborated on the concern of the impact the PACT Act will have on the VA's ability to keep up with the additional estimated 6-7 million claims. He also voiced our concerns about the predatory groups that are filing claims for veterans and getting as much as 50% of the veterans claim money.

**Concurrent Receipt:** Tony Gordon eloquently spoke about the Richard Star Act and the unfairness of deducting disability pay from a retired veterans pay if the veteran is rated at 50% or less. He stated that retirement pay and disability pay are two separate benefits and should be treated as such. Passing the Richard Star Act would stop this unfair practice. This will be most beneficial to the economy.

We asked our legislators to support our *entire* agenda and to continue working on behalf of our military and Veterans families and thanked them for their continuing support in Arkansas.

We then asked our legislators what we could do to help them in their efforts for military, veterans and families. One of the primary efforts mentioned, for us as to do as Legionnaires, is to inform our fellow veterans to use a VSO to file a VA claim instead of using one of the advertising agencies. If one of these agencies files a claim it is handled no differently, (ie faster/better) than if filed by a VSO, and the agency can get as much as 50% of the claimant awarded compensation. These are commonly called, "predatory" agencies. In addition, to help our legislators contact them! Our members can have their voice heard by contacting our legislators or their staff directly or by contacting one of the members of the Legislative Council\*.

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, Nate Todd, Dallas Erdman and Mary Erdman attended the Testimony of National Commander Jim Troiola. We sat with a delegation from the Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans Association who were there to get support for the Richard Star Act. Commander Triola's testimony can be viewed on The American Legion national website.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent the Department as your National Executive Committee Representative, Mary V. Erdman



Team Representatives: Patricia Murry, John Hendrick, Dallas Erdman, Mary Erdman, Pearl Gordon, Antoine Gordon, Nate Todd

# DEPARTMENT LEVEL CORRESPONDENCE



## Department Commander William "Doc" Sheets

Those that know me, understand that I am passionate about propelling the membership of the Department of Arkansas to new heights, exceeding the 100% mark on a regular basis. I endeavor to do that as your Department Commander, and any other capacity that I serve as a Legionnaire. I am proud to wear the emblem of The American Legion (TAL), and I know you do as well. It is a privilege and honor to represent the largest, and I feel most productive Voluntary Service Organization (VSO) to date.

Having said that, I implore you to increase your efforts to recruit, renew, and retain membership throughout the entire Legion Family, to include, Sons of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary,

and Legion Riders. We have the Four Pillars of The American Legion that sets us apart from all other organizations, Veterans, Children and Youth, Americanism, and National Security. These pillars are the foundation for what we do, and are crucial to promoting or Legion Family mission, vision, goals, and objectives. Let us be diligent about promoting these valued principles and enhance our position on the National Level. We are currently ranked 39th in the Nation. Let's Improve!

I want to thank you for affording me this privilege to serve as your Department Commander. Thank you for being part of The Legion Family



## Department Training Chairman Michael Westergren

During the 2022 State Convention, a resolution was offered and accepted that established procedures to select one or two candidates to attend the National American Legion College (NALC). NALC is the capstone training program in The American Legion. Candidates that attend this six-day course are immersed in the history, traditions, and procedures that define what we are and how we operate. Those that come back from this training are prepared for leadership at District, Department, and National levels and can expect to be appointed to various Commissions and Committees that set the course of The American Legion.

The most qualified applicants to attend NALC are officers serving at District or Department level. The Department selection committee will look at the applicants depth of experience and length of time serving in these positions. Mandatory requirements for selectees include completion of the current online American Legion Basic Training course and be a graduate of the Department American Legion College.

To apply to attend NALC, go online at [www.legion.org/college](http://www.legion.org/college) and fill out the online application. Your application must be received at Department Headquarters 20 days before the start of Convention. The 2023 NALC course will be held in Indianapolis at National Headquarters November 12-17, 2023. All Arkansas Legionnaires that are interested in serving at the Department or National Level are encouraged to apply.

For more information on the course or assistance with the application, contact Department Headquarters at (501) 375-1104

## Training Opportunities in The American Legion

- Basic Training (ALEI)
- Training Tuesdays [Training Tuesdays | The American Legion](#)
- Department Level Training at Post/District Levels
- Mid-Winter / Department Convention Training Courses
- Department of Arkansas Legion College
- Advanced Department Legion College Course

Form more Info see: [Training | The American Legion](#)



## Department of Arkansas American Legion College

The Department of Executive Committee (DEC) is committed to the training and empowerment of Legionnaires throughout the Department for accountability and mentorship with the desire to enhance the growth and development of members at all levels of this great organization. Growth and development through a process of evolution will help propel us into the future and create an atmosphere conducive to good order and discipline. To facilitate this, we have established our very own, Department American Legion College (DALC). Having said that, I encourage all eligible candidates to apply for attendance to this program of higher Legion education. So, what makes one eligible? Well, I am glad you asked,. It is quite simple. One has to have been a member of The American Legion for at least one year, and have completed the Basic Training Course online, and be recommended through an application process by your Post. From personal experience, I am confident you will be encouraged by the information you receive by completing the Basic Training Course. For more information, please see article by our training chairman, Michael Westergren for a all of the wonderful training opportunities. I plan on meeting with the Training Committee Chair to find a viable location for the next Department Legion College Experience. I have had preliminary talks with a few Posts in the area, and hope to have viable information by the next publication. **Training; Education; Accountability; & Mentorship increases MEMBERSHIP!**

**Tony Gordon, Southwest Area Vice Commander/Membership Chairman/Marketing Director DALC**



# DEPARTMENT OFFICER CANDIDATE ANNOUNCEMENTS



## **Barbara Johnson, PhD.** **Candidate for S.W. Area Vice Commander**

I am Barbara Johnson, PhD., and look forward to working as the S.W. Area Vice Commander in the American Legion, Department of Arkansas for the 2023-2024 year, when elected. I am dedicated to The American Legion Family, and strive for excellence in all aspects of my professional life.

With my personal membership in the American Legion for twelve (12) years, my skills and abilities will enhance the American Legion and the Department of Arkansas by including inclusivity for all Veterans, which will increase membership throughout the Southwest Area and then some.

I am currently the Vice Commander for District 15. Additionally, while Commander of M.M. Eberts, Post 1, we increased membership, and visibility increased within the community through events sponsored by the Post. Before being Commander I also served as Finance Officer, receiving a well-rounded and deep perspective of American Legion finance needs.

My doctorate is in Leadership and Educational administration which had a vital role in developing my leadership skills. My military experience has enabled me to develop leadership skills through both education and hands-on experience.

Familiarity with the S.W. Area comes, and the relationship contacts established in the American Legion has come from my experience as Department President and S.W. Division Vice President within the American Legion Auxiliary where membership was increased and assisted many Units with their installation of Officers at their annual Unit meetings.

I am eager to share with you my additional and successful qualifications as your S.W. Area Vice Commander.

Thank you for your consideration for this position. Please feel free to reach out to me at [Barbara.johnson83@aol.com](mailto:Barbara.johnson83@aol.com) or call 501-786-8039



## **Dallas M. Erdman** **Candidate for S.W. Area Vice Commander**

I am announcing my candidacy for SW Area Vice Commander. At the present time I am 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander of American Legion Post 19 in Benton AR, I'm on the Dept. Finance Committee and a member of the HSV Honor Guard, a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled American Veterans. I'm also on the National Legislative Committee and the National Foreign Relations commission and a member of the group that lobbies our National Legislators concerning Legion priorities during the Washington conference.

In the past I have been the Dept. Homeless Veterans Chairman for several years, the American Legion Dist. 14 Adjutant, Dist. 14 Chaplain and Post 123 Finance Officer for 20 years moving that post from the red to donating over \$6000.00 per year with a \$10,000.00 reserve fund. I was also the HSV Honor Guard Commander for 10+ years. For another Veterans service organization I was All State Post Commander, All American Post Commander, and Dist. Commander for two years and Dist. Chaplain for several years.

My military life was in the Navy serving in the Pacific aboard the aircraft carrier Princeton serving as an Interior Communications Tech. In private life I was a Technician, Group Leader, Supervisor and finally a manager over five departments that worked on Guidance Control Systems for Honeywell Inc. at their Aeronautics and Space Division. I cherish this opportunity to represent the Department of Arkansas, and I would appreciate your support for this important position. If elected, I will do my best to represent you to the best of my abilities!

**For God and Country, Dallas M. Erdman, Your Candidate For Southwest Area Vice Commander, American Legion Department of Arkansas!**





# What's Happening!



The Michael Vann Johnson, Jr. American Legion Post #74 Presents:

## TRIBUTE TO FALLEN HEREOS CEREMONY

Saturday, April 15 | 10:30 am

American Legion and Riders will parade From  
The NLR Justice Center. Arrive by:0900, Line up by 0915,  
Depart by 0930.

Please RSVP at: <https://tributetofallheroes.rsvpify.com>  
by March 15, 2023

Location: Sherwood Forest  
1111 West Maryland Ave  
Sherwood, AR 72120



RSVP: <https://tributetofallheroes.rsvpify.com/>

## AMERICAN LEGION POST 28

## 5TH ANNUAL CAR SHOW



## ALEXANDER CITY PARK

**MAY 20th 4-8 P.M.**

Sponsored by  
O'Reilly Auto Parts

### FOOD SALES

Hamburgers & Hot Dogs  
Chips ■ Soda ■ Bottled Water  
Rain Date - May 27th

### ENTRY FEE

\$15 Vet & Military  
\$20 Non-Military

### AWARDS

\*36 Trophys  
50/50 Drawing  
\*See Back for Details

**FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT HAROLD 501-813-4694**





## Veterans Benefits Administration Little Rock Regional Office

### VIRTUAL VETERANS CLAIMS CLINIC

The Little Rock Regional Office will host an **appointment only** Virtual Veterans Claims Clinic on Thursday, April 27, 2023 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

---

To schedule a virtual appointment, dial **501-370-3829** between **7:00AM** and **5:00PM** beginning Wednesday, April 12, 2023, until Wednesday, April 26, 2023.

---

The Virtual Veterans Claims Clinic will be staffed by Regional Office employees ready to virtually assist Veterans one-on-one with specific questions regarding their claims.

**\*NOTE:** Please upload any documents for your appointment to [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) no later than Wednesday, April 26, 2023.

Information is also available at:  
[www.benefits.va.gov/littlerock](http://www.benefits.va.gov/littlerock)



# DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY NEWS

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arkansas  
1415 West 7th Street - Little Rock, AR 72201  
(501) 374-5836 FAX (501) 372-0855 Email: [arkaux@att.net](mailto:arkaux@att.net)



## DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	<b>Dee Smith, McCrory</b>
NEC	Ada Heath, McCrory
Alternate NEC	Nancy French, Little Rock
N.E. Division Vice President	Jammie Phillips, Beebe
N.W. Division Vice President	Marilyn Haney, Cave Springs
S.E. Division Vice President	Pat Clark, Sheridan
S.W. Division Vice President	Pearl Gordon, North Little Rock
Secretary	Meg Dunn, Little Rock
Treasurer	Charlie McAfee, Little Rock
Chaplain	Vera Thompson, Cave Springs
Historian	Melissa Mangini, Augusta
Sergeant At Arm	Barbara Engler, Heber Springs
Parliamentarian	Vacant

## JUNIOR OFFICERS

<b>Honorary Jr. President</b>	<b>Tapanga Little, McCrory</b>
Honorary Jr. Vice President	Callie Caldwell, McCrory
Honorary Jr. Secretary	Clare Caldwell, McCrory

## DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

Americanism	Amanda Wade, Rogers
Auxiliary Emergency Fund	Elaine Strickland, El Dorado
Children & Youth	Ashlynn Jenkins, DeWitt
Community Service	JoAnne Cobb, Rogers
Constitution & Bylaws	Suzan Kaye, Mountain Home
Education	Andrea Caldwell, McCrory
Finance	Judy Sellers, Sheridan
Girls State Chairman	Naomi Owen, Stuttgart
History	Nora Earnest, Atkins
Junior Activities	Michelle Henning, Bentonville
Leadership	Patricia Murray, DeWitt
Legislative	Mary Erdman, Benton
Membership	Jammie Phillips, Beebe
National Security	Andrea Fisher, Morrilton
Past Presidents Parley	Wanda Honeycutt, Brinkley
Poppy	Nicole Smith, Fayetteville
Public Relations	Charlotte Purdy, DeWitt
V A & R	Patricia Murray, DeWitt
VA&R/Gift Shop (Little Rock)	Patricia Murray, DeWitt
VA&R/Gift Shop (Fayetteville)	JoAnne Cobb, Rogers



Dear Members,

What a fantastic year it's been so far! You have kept me moving at the speed of light. This year has seen us soaring as a department because of your efforts and good work. And I'm honored to be working right beside you.

You have worked our mission so fastidiously throughout this year with veterans' gift shops, Blue Star and Gold Star family recognition and support, POW/MIA services, Veterans Day and Christmas parades, food drives and veterans' food pantries, school supply giveaways and teacher recognition, reading sessions with school children, making poppies and poppy campaigns, donations to our homeless and hospitalized veterans, support for your communities after natural disasters, and the list goes on and on. Our first 100 years of service continues with the work you do every day. So much so that I've decided that we will celebrate our first 100 years of service as a department and each of you this spring.

On Saturday, April 22, 2023, we will have our 100-Year Anniversary Celebration at the State Veterans Home in North Little Rock. This will not be a regular business meeting. We will open our doors to the Veterans who live at the State Veterans Home and to our Legion family members as well as military, state, federal, and local dignitaries. We will showcase some of our historical artifacts for all to see. We will have informational tables displaying our programs and be available to answer questions about who we are and what we do.

There will be music, light refreshments, comradery, and cake! Come join us in a celebration of 100 years of service and YOU! (Watch your mailboxes for your invitations, please.)

Remember...Every day is Veterans Day  
With gratitude,  
President Dee Smith

## Girls State – Legionnaire report 2023

Girls State is right around the corner. The ALA Department of Arkansas has sponsored Girls State since 1942 making this the 80th session. Delegates will be reporting to Harding University in Searcy Sunday, May 28, 2023. It will wrap up on Friday, June 2, 2023. The Girls State program affords young high school women the opportunity to learn the responsibilities of citizenship and the basic structure and functions of government. Please make this a Unit priority by providing young women in your community the experience of attending an impactful educational program.

Charlotte Wilson, Director, and her staff have been busy with plans and revisions for this year's session. Information packets have been emailed to schools and mailed to Units. If you have not received the information, please contact Department as soon as possible.

Check out Department's website [http://www.auxiliary.arlegion.org/programs/girls\\_state.html](http://www.auxiliary.arlegion.org/programs/girls_state.html) or <http://www.arkansasgirlsstate.com>.

Girls State Chairman, Naomi Owen



# Happy 100th birthday, ALA!

**American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Arkansas  
Membership Committee  
Jammie Phillips—Chair  
Pearl Gordon—Member  
Patricia Murray—Mentor**



**Membership Update!**

**Let's Put the Pedal to the Medal and Accelerate for 2023!**

Ladies and Gents, we are well on our way. However, there are a few speed bumps in the road ahead on our way to 100%. We have a few members that have not renewed for 2023, and we need your help at the next pit stop. We don't want to lose any members; you all are too important to the mission. If you have not renewed for 2023 your membership is currently in a suspended status in which, according to national, one can NOT hold an office on the unit, district, or department level. So c'mon, let's get over this bump and get caught up! Our next goal is just around the corner, and that is for our department to reach 85% by March 15, 2023. We want to keep Team Arkansas in this race to the 100% Finish Line! Also, keep April 25, 2023 in mind, it is the date on which your unit's membership number will determine the number of delegates (unit's voting strength) your unit will have at the state convention in June. Let's accelerate recruiting, renewing, rejoining, and definitely retaining our members. We know that you can accomplish your unit's goal of 100%!

CONTRATULATIONS to the Champion units that have already sped to the 100% Finish Line

AR008: Charleston	AR100: Rogers
AR039: Morrilton	AR112: McCrory
AR074: North Little Rock	AR139: DeValls Bluff
AR077: Bentonville	AF249: Wicks
AR091: Beebe	AR261: Ravendon Springs
AR093: Jasper	AR340: Diamond City



**Remember our ALA Mission:**

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security

REMEMBER, we are all part of the same team! So, Let us work TOGETHER to reach our 2023 Membership Goal and make President De, and the Department of Arkansas Proud!

For God and Country,  
YOUR American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arkansas Membership Committee

**Honor and Remember Flag!  
Remember the Fallen**

The Honor and Remember Flag is a dedicated symbol of remembrance for our Fallen Service Members and recognizes the enduring sacrifice of their Families. The Honor and Remember Flag's design is distinctive, yet simple. Each detail on the flag symbolizes an important part of the overall meaning of the flag's message.

The Red Field represents the blood applied by brave men and women in America's Military throughout our history, who willingly gave their lives so that we all would remain free.

The Blue Star represents active service in military conflict. This symbol originated with World War I, but on this flag, it signifies service through all generations from the American Revolution to present day.

The White Border beneath and surrounding the gold star recognizes the purity of sacrifice. There is no greater price an American can pay than to give his or her life in service to our country.

The Gold Star signifies the ultimate sacrifice of a warrior in active service who will not return home. Gold reflects the value of life that was given.

**Junior Activities News**

Happy New Year! The Junior Auxiliary and young SAL in Arkansas are very busy! The 2022-2023 Honorary Junior Honorary Board members attended and represented the Arkansas Juniors at Mid-Winter Conference. They had the opportunity to work on the Americanism patch. Congratulations to the three of them for completing and earning the Americanism patch, They will receive it at this Summers Convention. We are encouraging all Juniors and SAL to work on the patch program. More than likely the Junior and SAL member has completed many requirements already! You can find the Patch Program information on the Department and National websites. Many units are posting pictures on social media of their Juniors active in the community!!! Let's encourage all of them to participate in the upcoming Poppy Poster Contest!

Chairman – Michelle Henning [unit77president@gmail.com](mailto:unit77president@gmail.com)

Member – Cathy Schraeder [caoderlin@aol.com](mailto:caoderlin@aol.com)

Member – Callie Caldwell [callie.caldwell2006@gmail.com](mailto:callie.caldwell2006@gmail.com)



The Flame is an eternal reminder of the spirit that has departed this life, yet burns on in the memory of all who knew and loved the fallen hero.

**Lest We Forget! Remember The Fallen!**

On January 21<sup>st</sup>, at the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arkansas Mid-Winter Conference, this Honor and Remember Flag was presented to Bobbie Davis, Surviving Spouse of Sgt David "Joe" Davis. Sgt Davis served with the 4<sup>th</sup> Squadron 14<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment 172<sup>nd</sup> Stryker Brigade Combat Team. On September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006, Sgt Davis succumbed to injuries sustained when a makeshift bomb exploded near his Stryker Armored Vehicle during combat operations in Sadr City, Iraq



## Candidates For Department of Arkansas Auxiliary President



### Candidate for Department President

I, Jammie R. Phillips, would like to announce my candidacy for the office of Department President of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arkansas 2023–2024. I am a proud member of American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 91, in Beebe, Arkansas. My eligibility for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is through the service of my husband, Legionnaire Patrick “Doc” Phillips. I am an Arkansas native and although Patrick’s career may have kept me away for a while; Arkansas has always been home.

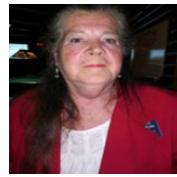
I am focused on the Mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. I believe in the motto of Service, not Self and I firmly believe in Leadership by example. I have undergraduate degrees in both Marketing and Economics; I also hold a master’s degree in accountancy with concentrations in Audit and Not-for-Profit Accounting.

Since joining the American Legion Auxiliary, I have held offices and chairmanships at the Unit, District, and Department levels. I have most recently served as your 22/23 Northeast Division Vice-President, 22/23 Department Membership Chairman, and the Arkansas 6th District Chaplain. I have served on the Department Membership Committees for both Arkansas and Iowa. At the Unit level, I have held the office of President, Vice-President, and Executive Committee. I have chaired the following committees on either a Unit or District level: Americanism, Audit, Community Service, Constitution and Bylaws, Education, and VA&R.

I have attended numerous National Conventions as a Delegate, an Alternate, and a Guest. I believe training and education are important. I continue to improve my understanding of the American Legion Auxiliary through training from American Legion Auxiliary Leadership National Conference 2019 and 2022, American Legion Auxiliary Mission Training 2019, American Legion Auxiliary Department of Iowa Leadership Training 2015 through 2019, and the ALA Academy Online Training Program. I am also a graduate of The American Legion Basic Training Course and The Arkansas Legion Collage. Recently, I had the privilege of attending training on Constitution & Bylaws by the Past National Chairman of Constitution & Bylaws Trish Ward.

If elected, I promise to serve with commitment, integrity, and dignity. I promise to dedicate myself to the American Legion Auxiliary, its programs, and its mission. I promise to perform all the duties of the Office of President to the best of my abilities. My desire is to ensure the traditions of the great State of Arkansas are preserved forever!

**Jammie Phillips, Candidate for Department President 2023-2024**



### Candidate for Department President

My name is Betty Cupples, and I would like to formally announce my candidacy for Department of Arkansas President, 2023-2024. I am a proud member of Heber Springs Unit 64 of the American Legion Auxiliary. I was born and raised in Arkansas, and I have lived in Quitman for the last 50 years. I am a 20-year member of the Department of Arkansas and I have been a member of Unit 64 the entire time.

My eligibility for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is through my deceased first husband, George Hayes, Jr. who was a 21-year veteran of the U.S. Navy, and my son, Thomas Chalk who served in the U.S. Army in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

I have served at the Unit level as Historian, Secretary, and Treasurer. I’m the current President of Unit 64 and have been for the last 4 years. Also, at the unit level I have served on various committees, the History Committee, the Finance Committee, the Girls State Committee, and the Emergency Fund Committee. I have also been the Chair of the Public Relations Committee. Factually, over the last 20 years I have served on all the Committees at Unit 64, Heber Springs, the largest unit in the Department. I have also been on the Executive Committee for several years at the unit level. I have been the District 6 President, 2021-2022.

At Department level, I serve as the third member of the Finance Committee, and will be the Chair in two years. I covet your vote for Auxiliary President, Department of Arkansas!

**Betty Cupples, Candidate for Department President 2023-2024**



**For God and Country**



**American Legion  
Auxiliary**

## Save The Dates

April 22, 2023 Spring Conference, Arkansas State Veterans Home, 2401 John Ashley Drive, North Little Rock, AR. Spring 100-Year Anniversary Celebration!

10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Registration 10:00 a.m.

April 25, 2023 Unit delegate strength for Convention will be based on membership as of this date.

May 1, 2023 Unit Member of the Year entries are due to Department Headquarters no later than May 1, 2023

May 15, 2023 VA&R Most Outstanding Unit VA&R Program award submission due to VA&R Committee Chair, Patricia Murray.

May 28 – June 2 Girls State—Session begins on May 28, 2023, and ends June 2, 2023

May 29, 2023 T.A.P.S., 3:00p.m.CT — Play Taps in your community or at Post/Unit.

June 1, 2023 Service Member of the Year Award – nominating form, along with supporting documentation, must be completed and submitted by June 1, 2023.

(Submit Application online at [www.legion-aux.org](http://www.legion-aux.org))

June 16 & 17, 2023 Department Convention at Wyndham Riverfront Hotel North Little Rock, AR (Friday– Saturday).



YOU ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE

100 YEARS OF SERVICE

*of the American Legion Auxiliary*

*Department of Arkansas*

Saturday April 22, 2023

Arkansas State Veterans Home

2401 John Ashley Drive

North Little Rock, Arkansas

10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Registration for members is 10:00 a.m.

Guests sign-in upon arrival

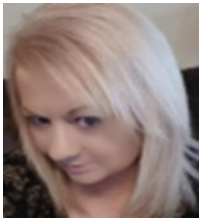
Join us for short speeches by guests along with informational tables and displays about the American Legion Auxiliary mission and programs.

Light refreshments will be provided.

Information packets will be available for members.



### **Beverly Wood, Candidate for Chaplain**



My name is Beverly Wood and I am announcing my candidacy for Department Chaplain of Arkansas for 2023-2024. I was born and raised in Marion, Indiana. My late parents Everett and JoAnn Webb were born and raised in Bald Knob, Arkansas and Heber Springs, Arkansas. I attended Ohio Christian University and graduated in 2011 with an Associate's Degree in Christian Ministries,

with a 3.94 GPA. I joined the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 157 of Churubusco, Indiana in 2018 under my late husband David J. Weisbach. I joined the American Legion Riders Group of The American Legion Post 157 of Churubusco, Indiana in 2018 along with my fiancée Randal Lee Wood, and became a member of the Honor Guard of The American Legion Post 157 of Churubusco, Indiana.

In May of 2019 Randal and I married and moved to Searcy, Arkansas. We visited The American Legion Post 91 of Beebe, Arkansas and soon joined this Post and Unit in 2019. My father served in The United States Army during the Korean War and was stationed in Korea and Japan. He received an accommodation from President William Clinton for his devoted and selfless consecration to the service of our Country in the Armed Forces of the United States.

My brother served faithfully during the Vietnam Era in the United States Air Force and retired as Master Sergeant. My husband Randal Lee Wood served faithfully during the Vietnam Era in the United States Air Force as Sergeant. I have faithfully served for 6 months as the Commander of The Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary in Searcy, Arkansas in 2019 and have a lifetime membership. Upon transferring my American Legion Auxiliary membership from Unit 157, Churubusco, Indiana to Unit 91 of Beebe, Arkansas, I helped set up the Charter and served as Chairperson for The American Legion Riders of Post 91 in Beebe, in 2021. This included working closely with two other individuals and I helped write the constitution and by-laws for this great organization. This provided me the opportunity to grow as a team player.

I have also worked on the Committee and helped Unit 91 of Beebe, Arkansas form an Honor Guard. I have successfully formed "Company B Coffee" upon approval from The American Legion Post 91 of Beebe. I currently serve as Chaplain for the American Legion Auxiliary of Post 91 Beebe, Arkansas. I am serving as Chaplain for the American Legion Riders of Post 91; and also Chaplain for the American Legion Riders for the State of Arkansas; where I am currently working on the committee to update the Constitution and By-Laws for The American Legion Riders of the Department of Arkansas. Being on this committee is an honor.

I am currently District 6 Auxiliary District President of Arkansas. I serve as the first, female Assistant Post Service Officer for Post 91, of Beebe. I also am a member of The American Legion Post 91 Honor Guard, and I play taps for military funerals for fallen comrades. My objective is to obtain the position of Department Chaplain for The Arkansas American Legion Auxiliary. As Department Chaplain I will use my skills as an Ordained Minister of 7 years to fulfill this position. I will be aware of physical and spiritual needs of all Auxiliary members because it is important that all members learn, grow and succeed in their positions of the American Legion Auxiliary, not only with God, but with one another as well. For God, Our Veterans, and Our Country I Serve!

Thank you, Beverly Wood, District 6, District Auxiliary President.

### **Patty Tucker, Candidate for N.E Area Vice President**



Patricia (Patty) Tucker was born in Arkansas, in Harrisburg, Arkansas and raised in Marked Tree, Arkansas. Patty met her future husband, Michael Tucker when she transferred to Lepanto High School in Lepanto, Arkansas. Patty and MSgt, Retired Michael met after a 30-year gap and married in 2005.

Patty has been a member of the American Legion since 2018. Her eligibility is through her husband, retired Air Force Master Sergeant Michael W. Tucker. She was first a member of Herman Davis Unit 197 where she served as President for 2 years. She became a Paid Up For Life member during this time. Patty transferred to the Crittenden County Unit 53 in West Memphis, Arkansas where has served as Unit Vice President since 2020.

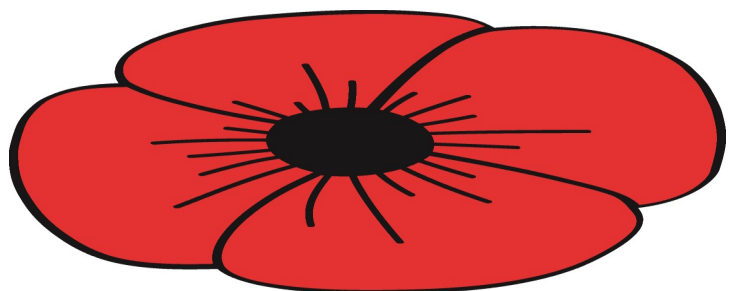
Patty served as the District 5 Vice President from 2018 to 2021. She became the District 5 President due to health considerations of the former President in 2021 and was formally elected at the next District 5 quarterly meeting. She is still the District 5 President.

Patty served on the Department Education Committee in the 2021 – 2022 year and is serving on the Department Legislative Committee for the 2022 – 2023 year. She has served as the Department Page at the National Convention for 2 years and has also been the Presidential Page for the Department President for 2 years.

Patty is a graduate of Arkansas Northeast College, graduating with highest honors. While at the college she was a member of the Gamma Beta Phi Society, serving as President for the local chapter and Treasurer for the State chapter

Before college, Patty worked at American Greetings Corporation for over 20 years, retiring at the start of 2003. She worked for the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture from 2011 – 2020. She also worked for the US Census Bureau in 2010 and 2020. She further worked as a Substitute Teacher in various High Schools within Mississippi County. She has had extensive training in leadership, team work, and business management.

Patty's additional activities includes representing the Legion Auxiliary while working with the Northeast Arkansas Veterans Action Council. This is a support group of about 15 organizations that help Active Military, Veterans, and their families. Patty has also helped organize and worked several Veterans Outreach programs in Mississippi County. She also has many hobbies that occupy her days. Patty also works with different animal groups in the area as foster fur-parent.



# THE ARKANSAS LEGIONNAIRE



The American Legion • Dept. of Arkansas  
P.O. Box 3280 • Little Rock, AR 72203

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Little Rock, AR 72203  
Permit Number 3072

MARCH 2023 Published by The American Legion  
Department of Arkansas

## For Your Information

- Veterans Crisis Line: **Dial 988 / Press 1**
- VA is Accepting PACT Act Claims Now@
- Department Convention
- VA Regional Office: 501-370-3829
- VHA Hospital: 501-257-1000
- Training: [www.legion.org/training-Tuesday](http://www.legion.org/training-Tuesday)
- Department Website: [www.arlegion.org](http://www.arlegion.org)



## The Battle vs Florida

### Membership Target Dates

- April 19, 2023 95%
- May 17, 2023 100%

## Department of Arkansas Statistics

2023 Department Goal = 9,172

As of March 29, 2023 /7,824/85.%

National Ranking: 39th Place

Members Needed for 95% = 889

## Southeast Regional Standing

Arkansas Ranked 10 of 13 for 85%

Florida Ranked 6 of 13 for 87%

247 Members Needed for 88%

88% = 17th Place National Ranking

For God and Country

The banner features the American Legion Riders logo at the top. Below it, the text reads "American Legion Riders Legacy Scholarship Ride 23- 25 June 2023". At the bottom, there are two state outlines: Missouri on the left and Arkansas on the right, both with the text "Two States for One Cause" in the center.

Arkansas and Missouri Riders will be riding the two states visiting American Legion Posts collecting funds for The Legacy Ride beginning June 23, 2023. For more info, contact Mike Stambaugh  
Cell: 501-385-1392 or [harleymikealr@yahoo.com](mailto:harleymikealr@yahoo.com)