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District 1

### Year End Report

June and July installations:	June 29 Lynn Haven Unit 356
June 30 Gulf Breeze Unit 378	Pensacola Unit 240
July 2 Panama City Unit 392	July 15 Navarre Unit 382
July 18 Milton Unit 78	July 19 Pensacola Unit 340
July 25 Ft Walton Unit 235	Crestview Unit 75
July 26 Destin Unit 296	

The need arose for me to go to Destin for a “Special Meeting” to work on resolving the internal dispute due to the ladies taking issue with Pat Carpenter. I spoke the members and discovered their “issues” were unfounded. My next trip to Destin was to try to explain that they cannot force Pat Carpenter out and that giving up the charter would be detrimental to the Veterans and community. I also explained that getting the charter back would mean starting over from nothing and that it could take 2-5 years to be chartered again. My belief is that the problems are fueled by the Post Members due to the conflicts between the post and Larry Carpenter. The charter is still intact because Pat Carpenter has stepped up to ensure we do not lose this vital unit.

July afforded me the opportunity to attend the reopening of Milton Post 78. The Post was decimated after the floods in 2014. It was an honor to celebrate with the members as they proudly cut the ribbon to their beautiful new Post home.

Our First District meeting for the year was on August 8<sup>th</sup>. We had roughly 30 participants. Our meeting was held at Unit 75 Crestview (a most excellent Unit). We discussed School of Instruction, Department President’s visit, membership and covered some points of protocol. Each unit was asked to choose a type of fish for a membership “race”. And as always, I asked ladies to consider running for District President. The reason for this is so those of us who can, will have an opportunity to mentor them.

August to the beginning of September was of course National Convention. This was my first one and I cannot express how amazing my experience was. Yes I learned much and have already started sharing my new found knowledge, but I came home with a greater passion and drive to help the Auxiliary keep on keeping on. I also brought back the desire to let the world know Who we are? What we do? And Why we matter? The other take away was that we need to conduct ourselves in a manner that will attract members and not repel them. I believe it will start with me not someone else. Not because I am District President, but because I am a member. If we can encourage each member to adopt this philosophy, we will have completed the mission of “Creating an internal culture of goodwill” thus adding to our membership and creating an unstoppable force of women who will continue to make a difference in the lives of our veterans, their families, the people of our community and our children and youth.

As always, I am amazed that I was given the great honor and privilege to be the president of such an amazing district. I understand that report is about what I have done. However,

I cannot do anything without the women of District 1. **They** are the driving force of District 1.

September: We started September with a visit from Department President, Pearl McIntyre. Our School of Instruction was held September 12 at the National Flight Academy. This included a cocktail reception to welcome Madam President to District 1. We then had the opportunity to spend the night on the virtual aircraft carrier, the "Ambition". Saturday was the big day for our classes to begin. The presenters did an outstanding job explaining our programs.

Sunday was spent with Madam President at Unit 240 for a POW/MIA ceremony.

Monday: was a visit to Westgate Escambia School to visit the Snoezelen a sensory complex for children with intellectual and physical challenges.

Tuesday we were off to Unit 193 to feed some of our Veterans' lunch. We also went to Unit 378 in Gulf Breeze to help the ladies there to get a better understanding of the workings of the Auxiliary. Unit 382 in Navarre was our next stop. Just a quick visit so Madam President could meet some of our members there.

Wednesday was fantastic! We watched the Blue Angels practice then off to the "O" club for lunch. Unit 75 in Crestview welcomed us with fun and food Wednesday evening.

Thursday we had lunch with the women of Unit 356 in Lynn Haven. It was great fun. Of course that was not all, we went to Unit 375 in Southport.

Friday we were off to NAS Panama City for a beautiful POW/MIA Ceremony. I have never seen one so nicely done. Some of the members from Unit 392 conducted it. Friday evening the ladies of Unit 392 hosted a dinner and another POW/MIA ceremony along with an Airforce Birthday celebration.

October: Our first ABC School was held at Unit 382 Navarre. Barbara Field was the instructor and we had 9 attendees.

My district visits started with Niceville Unit 221.

October 23 was the Stand Down in Pensacola. I met many veterans who were in need and was able to help a few by directing them to the Vet-Center and give out socks, underwear, t-shirts and shoes.

November: On the 6<sup>th</sup> Shirley Frazier and I conducted an audit for Unit 221. Unfortunately, the books were not in order and the audit failed.

It was great fun riding in the Veterans' Day Parade. It was an honor to represent the American Legion Auxiliary on such a special day.

Of course Fall Conference was great. My favorite part was the breakout session for the District Presidents.

November 21 we had a District meeting. After the meeting I was charged with the task of asking for the resignations for the President and Treasurer of Unit 221 due to the results of the audit. In addition, charges were brought up on both of them. I spent several days working with the unit to help them continue to deal with the everyday operation of the unit.

Shirley Frazer came back to District 1 for the hearing at Unit 221. The ladies were found not guilty and both resigned their position. Along with the President and Treasurer. The Chaplain, Historian and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice resigned.

At the December meeting I appointed the “acting” officers who would fulfill the roles until the elections in May.

I am very excited to be a part of helping a new Unit get their charter. Unit 402, Panama City Beach asked me to come to their unit and get them started. These ladies are so on fire. I am looking forward to them being a part of our organization. They have a heart for our mission. Many of the ladies attended the ABC School in Panama City. They are anxious to learn the ALA way of doing things.

February I had the honor of taking our Department 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice, Michele DeGenaro and Jane Hardacre to Westgate Escambia School and the Snoezelen. Then we were off to New Horizons to have a tour of the facility and eat lunch with some of the staff. And you can't come to District 1 without visiting the National Flight Academy.

Our second ABC School was in Panama City at Unit 392. We had a great turnout. I believe having one 2 ABC Schools help with the attendance since travel was easier for both sections of the District.

Then we had the privilege to attend Post 392 Family's USO Show. IT WAS GREAT!

I made several more trips to Niceville to show the appointed treasurer how to keep the books and create a finance report.

It took several more visits to Niceville to help get them on track and it seemed they were. I was asked to audit the books again since the Unit wanted to be sure they were managing the books properly. The books were perfect. We had two small errors that were easily corrected. One being 3 small items were on a receipt and should not have been reimbursed. The other, a receipt was missing, but a copy replaced the missing original.

I was called to Niceville once again because the appointed Treasurer had some grievances. We held a meeting with the ladies who she took issue with and discovered her complaints had no merit.

April 30 we had our DCC and elected Pat Carpenter as our District President for year 2016-2017. I look forward to working with Pat and following her leadership.

In May I went to Unit 402 (still waiting for their charter from National) and helped them hold their elections. They just want to hit the ground running when they get their charter. They are already organizing a 5k for the Veterans.

I also was asked to go back to Niceville and conduct the elections. During the meeting several officers resigned and refused to run again. If this action was not corrected, the Unit would not have any officers for 2016-2017. After some counseling of the unit, we had an election and Unit 221 is moving forward. There is still dissention there and probably will be for a while.

These are just a few of my adventures as District 1 President. I cannot express my pleasure in having the opportunity to serve the ladies of District 1. It has not all been wine and roses, but it had been a great year!