



The Navigator

August 2016 Vol. VI, Issue 1

Inside This Issue
President's Message

Girls State Alumni Spotlight

From the Units

Meet New Dept. Chairmen!



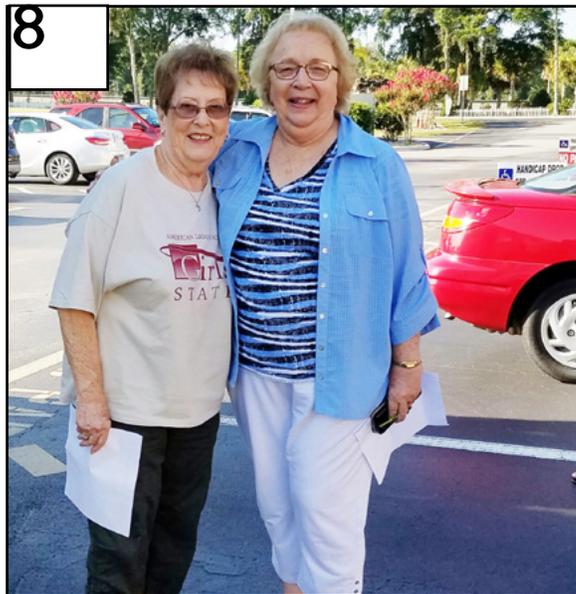
1



4



6



8

[This month]

- 1 Message from the President**
President Kelli talks about her travels to Safety Harbor - Unit 238, Girls State, and Boot Camp.
- 3 Chaplain's Corner**
Department Chaplain Lois Stachelrodt shares the names of members we have lost this summer.
- 4 Girls State Alumni Spotlight: Tara Lee**
Attorney Tara Lee shares her experience as a former Girls Stater and where she is today.
- 6 Letter for Miss National Poppy**
Congratulations to Junior Member Jasmine Harris from Unit 286 for winning the Miss National Poppy Contest!
- 7-12 From the Units and Department Officers / Chairmen**
See what our Units have been up to and what our new officers and chairmen have to share!

The Navigator

Mission Statement

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.

Vision Statement

The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace and security.

For Submissions:

The Navigator
1912A Lee Road
Orlando, FL 32810
Ph: (407) 293-7411
Fax: (407) 299-6522
www.alafl.org

“Navigating the course for veterans and their families!”



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



KELLI BECRAFT

president@alaff.org

First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude for the membership giving me this wonderful opportunity to serve as Department President for the 2016-2017 year. This is such an honor and I am excited to navigate around the state for Veterans and their families.

I would like to personally thank Linda Teasley for being the installing officer and making the installation on Father's Day, June 18, 2016, one that I will never forget. There were some important words said that day and the feeling of real family as we begin a new year. For example, Linda said, "The American Legion Family (yes, the entire family) please stand and raise your right hand and repeat after me:

"I solemnly promise to renew my pledge of service to The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion and give whole hearted support to these

newly elected Department Officers." Wow, just to think that Linda charged all of them and they graciously took the pledge. This is why I am excited to be a part of The American Legion Family.

I have chosen a compass as my symbol for the year. A compass is an instrumental aid that provides guidance and navigation through life's unexpected twists and turns. Each cardinal direction has a significant meaning. For the Auxiliary, we will be changing them a little bit this year. For NORTH, or N, we will **Nurture the organization**; for EAST, or E, we will remember that **Every volunteer is valuable**; for the SOUTH, or S, we will provide **Service to our veterans**; and for the WEST, or W, we will **Welcome new members**.

For those that could not be at the installation, one important message relayed that day is that the Legion is family and family needs to grow. That is why everyone



At the Post home of Kelli Becraft. Dept. Cmdr. Joe McGee meeting an Auxiliary member of Unit 275 from Ireland. Pictured (from L to R): Sid, Joe, Mary and Kelli.

—Photo courtesy of President Kelli Becraft.

who left that day received a Member Essential Kit. Included in the kit was: a Family Membership Application; a pen; a Tootsie Roll to remind you of the important role you play; a Life Savers candy to remind you we all need help once in a while; a Band-Aid to heal the hurt feelings; a paper clip to remind you to hold it together during tough times; a rubber band to remind you to be flexible, my Pin – A

compass to guide you in the right direction; and a piece of chocolate to remind you we are going to have a sweet year. Membership is an important role in this organization and if we use our membership kit and the cardinal directions of the compass we are sure to have a great, fun-filled year and a successful membership year.

My special project this year is to raise funds for a nonprofit called Final Salute

—continued on page 2



President Kelli (left) arrives at Florida Girls State with Dept. Constitution & Bylaws Chairman Pat Devine in Tallahassee.

—Photo courtesy of President Kelli Becraft.

Incorporated, started by a female veteran named Jas Booth. The mission of Final Salute Incorporated is to provide homeless women veterans with safe and suitable housing. There are an estimated 55,000 homeless women veterans nationwide. Over 70% are single mothers. Final Salute has helped over 900 women veterans in over 30 states. Yes, I did say this is a nationwide nonprofit program. However, when I spoke with Jas, I asked if the funds could be allocated for Florida Female Veterans ONLY. She said ABSOLUTELY, in fact one of their sponsors is the New York Yankees and they allocate their funds for New York or Florida Female Veterans. So just like many other Nationwide Programs – USO, Beads of Courage, COTA, and Fisher House—we will be able to keep the funds here in Florida and help one of our own Fe-

male Veterans. Final Salute empowers these Veterans, and WE, the Department of Florida American Legion Family, as a united front, have the power to make a difference.

After convention, I had the honor of attending Girls State. I spent three nights and four days in Tallahassee sharing a dorm room with my mother, Pat Devine, and enjoying this wonderful program. I was there on Thursday when the girls got off the bus, got out of their parents' cars, were dropped off by various other modes of transportation, and I was there to watch the timid and shy girls develop some great friendships and grow into wonderful young leaders. I have heard so much about this program but until you are actually there and experience it, words cannot say enough. Girls State Great!!!

I left Tallahassee and headed to Safety Harbor

for their annual Fourth of July Parade. Once again, the members of Safety Harbor pulled off a fun and exciting day. The streets were lined with people of all ages to watch the parade. I have been attending this parade for a few years now, and it just keeps growing and growing. Great job, Safety Harbor.

On Saturday, July 9th, I was privileged to install two Auxiliary Presidents. First, I was at Fruitland Park to install Lucy for the second time as Unit President of 219, and then I was off

Wow, the month is moving fast, on July 14th, I headed to Orlando for Boot Camp. This was an entertaining, crazy and exciting excursion. The chairmen and officers are excited and pumped up for the new year. We will definitely be using our compasses at Workshop on August 12-14, 2016. This is one workshop you will not want to miss. I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all chairmen and officers for their cooperation and excitement to take this journey with me.



President Kelli (left) speaks to the Florida Girls State delegates during her visit in Tallahassee.

—Photo courtesy of President Kelli Becraft.

to Unit 347, where I was humbled to install Mary for her first presidency. I know these units are in great hands with such wonderful leaders.

On Sunday, July 10th, I was home with my American Legion Family, being installed by Past Department President Diane Rousseau as a Member-At-Large for Unit 275.

See you soon in Orlando at Workshop on August 12-14, 2016. Happy and safe travels to all.

If there is a special event you would like for me to attend, please email at president@alafll.org.

—President Kelli

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



LOIS STACHELRODT

As we begin to navigate for our veterans and their families this year, let us never forget the sacrifice that they have given us. We will be eternally grateful to all veterans forever. You will see a number of names that appeared in the Memorial Service insert, however they were never honored in any of the Family Tree issues, so that is why they are appearing in the first new communique for the new year. It is again, my honor to be serving as your American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida Chaplain. Thank you for your support, kindness and the confidence to continue to serve as your Spiritual Advisor. Have a blessed day, stay safe and healthy, and I will see you soon.

—Lois Stachelrodt, Department of Florida Chaplain

District 1

Unit 221	Hall, Judith Norris, Sheila
Unit 240	Flood, Helen
Unit 340	Chase, Jeanne

District 4

Unit 155	Shaffer, Sharon
Unit 284	Bush, Matty Jeffers, Estelle

District 5

Unit 129	Hoover, Audine
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District 6

Unit 347	Dibut, Kathy Lightner, Julia Ann Michael, Ruth B. Underwood, Linda Westmoreland, Rose
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District 7

Unit 4	Gehring, Rose Ann
Unit 34	Barker-Mass, Beverly Caraway, Lula

District 8

Unit 113	Boyd, Celeste
Unit 159	Marlatt, Lillian
Unit 312	Kahn, Susan

District 9

Unit 162	Courtemanche, Lorraine
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District 12

Unit 163	Mau, Jacqueline C. Martin, Jean McCowan, Betty Savelli, Patricia
Unit 171	Jackson, Peggy

District 12 (continued)

Unit 318	Blake, Joanne Cassidy, Lillian McLaughlin, Mary Panzcak, Margaret
Unit 348	Wright, Carol

District 13

Unit 110	Allman, Maxine
Unit 136	Fox, Deborah
Unit 274	Lewis, Janet
Unit 303	Shivel, Alleane
Unit 323	Lightner, Janice
Unit 336	Cox, Carol Stoos, Terrance

District 15

Unit 5	Smith, Suellen
Unit 138	Adkins, Donita Maxwell, Nancy
Unit 167	Gambrell, Frankie

District 15 (continued)	
Unit 186	Rhodes, Mary Veczko, Geraldine

Department	
Unit 400	Silverman, Katherine

District 16	
Unit 104	Cracchiolo, Pamela
Unit 125	Bandos, Judy Irene Graham, Beverly Marcklinger, Carol P.
Unit 275	Griffin, Eleanor
Unit 305	Krug, Barbara Amyot, Marjorie

District 17	
Unit 6	Nerge, Marguerite
Unit 45	Fawley, Dorothy
Unit 120	Mullis, Judith
Unit 127	Cohen, BernaDean D.
Unit 204	Stevens, Jessie M. Sullivan-Branch, Ruby
Unit 285	Plourde, Bernadette



—As written on June 24, 2016

Thirty years ago this summer, I attended Florida Girls State. I have been thinking about that experience a lot this week, because my son is now at Virginia Boys State, and I am vicariously re-experiencing all the excitement and the camaraderie, remembering the full days and the energy of so many young people so interested in making a difference. I've watched my son find that fire in his belly for service to community and country, and I've listened as he's been inspired by his peers to try to accomplish something just out of his reach.

And so, I thought I'd take a moment to thank you, and everyone in the American Legion Aux-

iliary, for making that experience so valuable for me, thirty years ago. I want you to know how many of those lessons stayed with me in my adult life.

I arrived at Girls State in 1986 aspiring to be my city's reporter, and I promptly lost that election! But with the help of my city-mates, girls who supported me and campaigned with me (including loaning me each of their best dresses because I quickly ran out of nice enough things to wear as the week's events progressed) I was ultimately elected governor. It was a profoundly humbling experience, to be surrounded by so many impressive girls,

Alumni Spotlight: Tara Lee

The Girls State alumna shares her experiences after being selected for the program and gives her thanks to the Auxiliary.



Tara Lee (pictured above) attended Girls State in 1986 and is now a partner in the most successful law firm in the country.

—Photo courtesy of Tara Lee

and feel so energized by their ideas and their plans for the future. My mother hung the photo of me with then-Giver or Bob Graham in her hallway until it was replaced by

a photo of her first grandson (the boy who is now at Boys State).

A year later, I went on to the US Naval Academy, and after graduation

—continued on page 5

served first as an officer in a helicopter squadron and then, after completing law school at night, as a lawyer in the US Navy Jag Corps. The speaking skills honed at Girls State have served me well in my profession. I've been recognized as the outstanding Trial Lawyer in the Navy Jag Corps, recognized as a Trailblazer and Pioneer in Litigation by the National Law Journal, and for my international work pur-

suing justice for Somali victims of war crimes and crimes against humanity cases, I received the Financial Times Award for the Most Innovative Lawyers in the US. I am a partner now in the most successful law firm in the country, and I do a lot of public speaking these days to women's groups, and volunteer for a number of nonprofits focused on creating opportunities for women. Every time

I speak I think about the lesson I learned at Girls State—about what we accomplish as women when we support each other and raise each other up. There's no more powerful force in the world for changing the world than that.

I mostly wanted to thank you, and let you know about the success, and the career of service, that Girls State spurred for me. If there is ever anything I

can do, I would be proud to help. I am immensely proud to be a part of the Girls State legacy. Thank you for all you do.

Best regards,

— Tara Lee
Partner, Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP
Cell: 571 830 4363
Bio: <http://www.quinnemanuel.com/attorneys/lee-tara>



***For more information on anything mentioned below, contact Department at (407) 293-7411.**

Upcoming Events & Deadlines

Event	Date
Department Workshop	August 12th-14th
National Convention	Aug. 26th - Sept. 1st
District 12 School of Instruction	August 27th
FL Special Olympics - Stand Up Paddleboard Championships	August 27th
Begin Accepting 2017 New Members	September 1st
FL Special Olympics - Golf Championships	September 2nd - 3rd

Event	Date
National Day of Remembrance	September 11th
POW/MIA Recognition Day	September 16th
C&Y Golf Tournament	September 17th
District 1 School of Instruction	September 17th
District 5 School of Instruction	September 17th
Fall Conference	November 18th-20th



American Legion Auxiliary

In the Spirit of Service Not Self for Veterans, God and Country

June 22, 2016

Little Miss Poppy
Jasmine Harris

Dear Jasmine,

It gives me great pleasure to announce that you have been named National Miss Poppy 2015-2016 in the 6-12 years of age category. Congratulations! Thank you for being an excellent representative of the American Legion Auxiliary and sharing the memorial poppy story in your community.

If you and your family are planning to attend the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio I would love to introduce you to our members on the convention stage during the opening session on Monday morning, August 29.

Please have your parents notify our Poppy Program Coordinator, Chrystal Daulton, so that she can provide further details. She can be reached by email: CDaulton@ALAFORVeterans.org or phone at (317) 569-4555.

Distinguished Guest Packet: You may pick up your Distinguished Guest packet starting Friday, August 26 at 12:00 p.m. in the American Legion Auxiliary National Staff Offices which are located in Junior Ballroom, 3rd floor of the Duke Energy Convention Center.

Sincerely,

Sharon Conatser
National President

CC: Lori Skallerud, National Poppy Committee Chairman
Teri Miller, National Poppy Committee Vice Chairman
Kimberly Sullivan, Secretary, Dept. of Florida
Chrystal Daulton, Poppy Program Coordinator





FROM THE UNITS

“Navigating
the course for
veterans and
their
families!”



UNIT 159

Unit 159: Unit President Judy Lemm (right) presents a \$300 check to District 8 President Julia Flint Griffith for a new district banner at the Eighth District Constitutional Conference. —*Photo courtesy of Judy Lemm.*

Unit 56: Members of Unit 56 - Starke pose for a group photo. After 17 years, the unit is preparing to close its charter.

“What wonderful ladies they are,” said District 4 President Rebecca Kelly. “I can only imagine the love that was spread through those halls.”—*Photo courtesy of Rebecca Kelly.*



UNIT 56



Unit 347: The unit sponsored 11 girls, who left for Tallahassee to attend Girls State. A few other girls from different units also met at the Post to board the bus.

PDP Peggy Hearlson, Ruth Sovern (pictured with Peggy in top right photo) and District 6 President Carol Pirone-Udell were there to check them in and get them ready for the trip.

Fran Ridgley from Unit 286 was the chaperone, pictured with Peggy in the top left photo.

—Photos courtesy of Carol Pirone-Udell



UNIT 1

Unit 1: Titusville Unit 1 interviewed 26 Juniors from Astronaut, Titusville, Space Coast and Merritt Island High Schools. The girls pictured above were selected as delegates and alternates for Girls State. Left to right: Samantha Dunlap, Unit 1; Erin McCarthy (originally an alternate for Unit 1), Unit 81; Danielle Adkins (originally an alternate for Unit 1), Unit 126; District 12 and Unit 1 President Cathie McMullin; Jessica Riddle, Unit 1; and Amanda Bremer, Unit 1. Amazingly, every one of them is enrolled in their high school's JROTC program.

—Photo courtesy of Cathie McMullin

WELL WISHES TO PDPS BEVERLY EVANS & DORIS RASH!

PDP Beverly Evans has been in and out of the hospital and is now in rehab. PDP Doris Rash has also been in the hospital—twice since Convention.

If you would like to send them a card, please send it to their home addresses:

For PDP Evans: 18640 SW 89th Court
Miami, FL 33157

For PDP Rash: 122 Fairway Court
Lake Placid, FL 33852



Children & Youth Junior Activities



Ann King-Smith
childrenyouth@alaf1.org



Welcome to an exciting new year of Children & Youth and Junior Activities. Working alongside President Kelli Becraft, we will be navigating the way for our children and our Junior members. The Children & Youth Program emphasizes protecting, caring for and supporting all children and youth, particularly the children of our veterans' and military families. In our Junior Activities Program, we inspire active participation by Junior American Legion Auxiliary members that are under the age of 18. By supporting our Juniors, we are building a strong future for the ALA, by engaging productive members that

will carry on the ALA mission for life.

I am excited to work with Children & Youth Committee members Gail Dupuis and Terry Gallagher. Both of these great Auxiliary members have demonstrated a deep dedication to our organization in many different ways. They will be involved in all phases of both the Children & Youth Program and Junior Activities.

I hope that each District and Unit President have carefully chosen a dedicated member to be the Children & Youth Chairman for the upcoming year.

Together, we will be working on projects such

as, "Star Spangled Kids and " Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2 (KDH2)." We will be encouraging our Junior members to continue collecting patches through the Patch Program.

Please make sure that all members are on the lookout for local recipients for the Youth Hero and Good Deeds Award. The Youth Hero Award is given to youth that demonstrate a heroic deed of valor and the Good Deeds Award honors youth that exemplify community service in action.

Once again we will be supporting the Beads of Courage Program. It's so exciting that this wonderful

organization is now on our Department Remittance Form. To learn more about this wonderful program that supports and strengthens the children and families that are coping with serious illnesses, please visit their website at www.beadsofcourage.org.

So, as you can see, we have much work to do for our Children & Youth this year. It's time to get out your **COMPASS** and start navigating in the right direction for our children!!!

—Ann King-Smith
**Children & Youth /
 Junior Activities
 Chairman**
 321-693-6039



Constitution & Bylaws



Pat Devine
cbylaws@alaf1.org

Constitution & Bylaws and Standing Rules: There is a revised Constitution & Bylaws and Standing Rules sample template now on the website. When revising your documents, please refer to this template. There are **CHANGES**. Send two (2) copies of the entire document to Pat Devine, Department Chairman - 1213 Inverness Drive, Dunedin, Fl. 34698.

—Pat Devine
Dept. Constitution & Bylaws Chairman
 727-736-8246

Education



Linda Knoblach-Harkness
 education@alaf1.org

It is an honor to be your Department Education Chairman this year. My focus this year is our scholarship program. We have several scholarships available, yet we only received 17 applications last year. Did you know that we have a scholarship for members who are continuing their education? My plan is to make sure we are getting our CEUs (Continuing Education for our Units) about National's Education Program Action Plan as well as Department of Florida's.

We will be awarding a **Cash for College Plaque**: Each member of the Department of Florida will be asked to give \$1.00 to our Department Scholarship fund. That's it! The Unit from each membership grouping that donates the largest amount by **APRIL 30, 2017** will receive a plaque (More information is in the Department Education Program Action Plan).

We will also be collecting **Pennies for Pilots**: Each Unit member will be asked to save pennies (not limited to pennies). The Unit from each membership grouping that collects the most money will be put into a drawing for a full six-day "deployment" to the National Flight Academy in Pensacola for a young person of their choosing (worth \$1250.00). The drawing will be at Department Convention (More information is in the Department Education Program Action Plan).

I look forward to helping all of you supporting this extremely important program. Don't hesitate to email or call if I can help.

For God and Country,

—Linda Knoblach-Harkness, Dept. Education
 Chairman
 484-264-7890

Girls State



Irma Wehrli
 girlsstate@alaf1.org

I want to welcome all District and Unit Girls State Chairmen. We don't have a date for Girls State 2017 at this time. I need each Girls State Chairman—whether you are a District or a Unit Chairman—to send me your name, address, telephone number, and email address. When I get dates, I will forward that information to you. I will be able to get information to you in a timely manner.

Thanking You In Advance,

—Irma Wehrli
 Department Girls State Chairman
 386-755-3814





Historian



Eleanor Amato
historian@al afl.org

Your unit history starts at the end of 2015-2016 Department Convention. Now is the time to prepare your documents to submit at the mid-year and end of the year reports. Your reports must be in narrative form. Tell us a story! Use the following guide to help you write an informative paper:

- Who: Unit or District Historian.
- What: Write a story about what happens in your Unit or District.
- When: Start with the end of the 2015-2016 Department Convention.
- Why: To record and preserve the history and the happenings within your unit or district for all to see.

History is in more places than just artifacts. It is in your meeting minutes, governing documents, newspaper articles, photos, etc.

Set up a system as to how your notes will be kept:

- A Calendar to keep track of all the happenings of

your unit or district.

- A notebook to jot down your notes and thoughts to paper and not depend on memory. Write your notes in chronological order.
- Request a copy of the minutes to review the factual accounts of your unit or district
- Take pictures of your events making sure you write on the back of the picture names of individuals in the picture.

Remember: I am here for you!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at: historian@al afl.org or 386-427-1168.

For God and Country,

—Eleanor Amato
Department Historian
386-427-1168



Past Presidents Parley



Dee Bell
pastpresidentparley@al afl.org

—continued on page 13

Hello Ladies,
My name is Dee Bell and I'm your Past Presidents Parley Chairman. I have been an A.L.A. member for 19 years. I live in St. Pete Beach and belong to Treasure Island Unit 158.

Past Presidents on all levels are encouraged to use the 4 points on Presidents Kelli's compass to "navigate" your journey this year. Through this program, we will continue to honor and recognize Unit, District and Department Presidents, extraordinary Unit members, active-duty and female veterans and nursing students.

Past Department Presidents July birthdays and their Department theme:

- **Mary Kelly-Perkins (2009-2010) - July 14th**
Theme: "Lighting the Fire to go Above and Beyond"

- **President Emblem:** Hot Air Balloons
Irma Wehrli (2010-2011) - July 16th
Theme: "Service not Self"
President Emblem: Gems
 - **Kathy "Kat" Rich (2000-2001) - July 30th:**
Theme: "Renewed Promise – Dedicated Service with Love & Compassion"
- There are no August birthdays.

"Hats Off" to the women we honor!

—Dee Bell

Department Past Presidents Parley Chairman
727-360-1423



Public Relations



Sandi Howard-Stepp
publicrelations@al afl.org

NAVIGATING THE COURSE FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

We are using our public relations compasses to:

- N - Navigate relationships with Media
- E - Explore opportunities to explain who we are
- W - What we do for veterans and their families
- S - Sound Off: Why we matter to Veterans

Public Relations: To promote, publicize, and re-educate the general public and our members about our core program values of serving veterans and their families.

Enlist the help of your Unit/District Committee chairman to help spread the word and raise with praise what your Unit is accomplishing in the mis-

sion-related programs.

The Public Relations program works collaboratively at all levels – unit, department, and national – to positively promote and advance the objectives and programs of the Auxiliary to our membership and the public at large.

Let's "Navigate the Course of Public Relations" to explore and travel together, SOUNDING OFF on: Who we are, What we do and Why we matter for Veterans, Active Duty Military, Children and Youth and our communities.

Sandi Stepp
Department PR Chairman
(321) 276-9513



FROM THE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT



TREVA "TK" WILDRICK

—Acting Department Secretary-Treasurer

secretary@alaf1.org

Welcome to our new program year, 2016-2017! We have had many questions about membership, so I'll try to answer the most common questions here.

Q: When will Department start processing 2017 renewals?

A: July 1, 2016

Q: When will we be able to send in new members for 2017?

A: September 1, 2016. However, do NOT hold an application for more than 20 days. If you receive it prior to August 11, it will count as a 2016 new application.

Q: Can we still renew for 2016?

A: Absolutely, any time! And you can pay back year dues as well.

Q: What are our membership goals for 2017?

A: National has approved our goals for this year. Each unit is asked to increase their membership by 5% over their membership totals from Close of Books (May 16, 2016).

Q: If one of our Unit's members renews online, how and when will we be notified and paid?

A: National has created an ALAMIS report for Units to pull that will tell you who paid online, and when. Units could run this report as often as they wish. If your Unit is not an ALAMIS user, it is strongly recommended you become one. The schedule for paying Units is monthly, however, it may be more frequent as needed. Members in good standing may use MasterCard or VISA to pay their dues online. Otherwise, renewal dues are paid directly to the units.

Q: How can I get my 2017 membership cards?

A: Several Units have still not yet submitted at least one of the following: a valid and complete 2016-2017 Officers List; checks to clear their invoices; and/or checks to pay their membership shortage. If you do not have your cards, simply call your District President, or Department to find out what you owe for us to release your cards.

As always, call the office with any questions. See you at Workshop, August 12-14!

—Treva Kay Wildrick,
Department 1st Vice President