President’s Message

Greetings everyone!

I hope everyone is staying well and continuing to keep our mission and purpose in mind even as we are continuing to practice social distancing. This month’s newsletter takes a look at several important items, and one of those is to inform you of the plan approved by the Department Executive Committee to hold our annual July Convention virtually via Zoom. This will allow us to elect our officers for the coming year. The time will be announced at a later date in order to make certain that our meeting does not coincide with other American Legion Family virtual meetings. More information will be forthcoming as it becomes available.

Another important section is the introduction of our candidates for office in the Department of Virginia for 2020-2021, and a call for any additional nominations for these offices. At this time there are no candidates for Department Chaplain.

Lastly, I’ve included pictures that have come to me that demonstrate how our members have answered the call to do what we do best, to serve during challenging times.

For God and Country,

Dr. Lisa Chaplin
Department of Virginia
President 2019-2020

Lest We Forget the Price Paid for Our Freedom

Are you wondering what you can do to honor the fallen on this Memorial Day? We are all accustomed to distributing poppies and sharing the story to bring visibility to our fallen heroes, or placing flags at Veterans Cemeteries, but this Memorial Day weekend we are challenged to recognize their sacrifice in other ways and here are a few ways to consider.

As you know, National Poppy Day is recognized as the Friday before Memorial Day, and here we are! If you venture out on National Poppy Day, or at any time during this Memorial Day Weekend, I hope you wear your poppy or poppy pin. You may find that you have a videoconference with work, friends or family and you can treat that as an opportunity to make the poppy visible as well.

In lieu of a public event, on Monday, May 25th at 10:00 a.m. the Virginia War Memorial will be live streaming its 64th Annual Memorial Day Ceremony. Visit their Facebook page at Facebook.com/VirginiaWarMemorial or visit www.vawarmemorial.org for up-to –the minute details.

National Commander Bill Oxford has asked that we light candles of honor and place them on our front porches or in windows at dusk on May 25th to remember them all and pay our respects while maintaining social distance.

What will you do?
Hello, my name is Dawn M. Thomas and I'm from Tidewater Unit 327. I have been a member for 22 years. My eligibility comes from my father, Lee Anderson, who served in the US Navy during the Vietnam war and my son Jack Stanley who is currently serving in the US Army. Since being a member I have held many positions in the Auxiliary starting with Unit President for three years followed by District 1&2 President. On the Department level, I have held many committee chairs with the current one being VA&R. I have also been the Department Historian. I currently live in Norfolk, VA but was born and raised in Detroit, MI. I have three children - Lynda, Gary, and Jack; and five grandchildren - four boys and my newborn granddaughter. I have been employed with H&R Block for 21 years holding a management position for 19 years with them. I look forward to another year serving as a member of this great organization.
Candidate for Eastern Zone Vice President

I, Carolyn Hurdle Cannon, am a candidate for Eastern Zone VP. The City of Portsmouth is my place of residence and I am affiliated with Sgt. William H. Harrison, ALA Unit 190. My connection with the ALA began in 1996.

I was eligible under many: my father, Willie Glenn Hurdle, World War I decorated veteran; my brother, Esper Hurdle, who served with the Tuskegee Airmen; and my deceased husband, George Moore, a Korean War Veteran, under whom I joined.

The following positions have been entrusted to me:

1st & 2nd District President
Department Membership Vice President
1st & 2nd District Vice President
Parliamentarian Unit 190
1st & 2nd District Children & Youth Chairperson
Unit 190 Interim Treasurer
Unit 190 President
Unit 190 1st Vice President

My life's mission is devoted to helping others. I have been blessed in many ways as an individual and given many talents by God. Being the youngest of sixteen children, I was taught to live an unselfish life and appreciate all good that comes my way. I was employed with Virginia Beach City Public Schools as an educator for 35 years. I retired in 2005, but not from my life's mission which keeps me constantly in motion and thinking of ways of making things better.

Candidate for Northern Zone Vice President

Hi, I'm Ginger Harvey and I live in Manassas, VA. I belong to Unit 10 and have been an ALA member for 19 years. I am eligible for membership through my father, Darrell Harvey, who served in the Army during the Vietnam War era, and is a member of American Legion Post 10. I have served our organization in the following positions:

16th District Legislative Chair
16th District Sergeant-at-Arms for two years
16th District Page at Department Convention for two years
Department Convention Page
16th District President 2019-2020

I work as a pre-school teacher, and I also volunteer with other Veterans Service Organizations; the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary and Vietnam Veterans Associates. I sing at many Veterans events and I am a Nashville and Patriotic Recording Artist.
Candidate for Western Zone Vice President

Wilda Clear is a seven-year member of The American Legion Dan River Unit 1097 in Danville, VA. She is eligible for membership through her father, Randall Seller, a WWII Veteran and her son, Matthew Clear, Air Force Active Duty personnel. Wilda has served as Chaplain of Unit 1097 for two years and will serve as the 6th District Chaplain for 2020-2021. She has served as a Department Page for three years and District Page for one year. She has attended conference, conventions, and workshops to enhance her knowledge of our organization.

Her vision of the Western Zone is that members work together to serve our homeless Veterans. Wilda feels that she can fulfill this vision due to the mentorship received from Department leaders, especially Peggy Thomas, Sallie Rossman, and Patricia Upshaw.

Wilda has five brothers and two sisters that are all members of the Legion Family. She was a CNA for thirty-two years and a property manager for five years before retirement.

Candidate for Historian

Hi, I'm Carol Campbell and I live in Manassas, VA. I have been a member of Unit 10 since 2006, and am eligible for membership through my father, James. F. Gallagher, Sr. who served in the Army during WWII. I have held the following positions with our organization:

**ALA National Committee Positions:**
- National 100th Anniversary Committee Member (2017-2021)
- National History Committee Member (2019-2021)
- National Security Committee Member (2018-2019)
- National Legislative Committee Member (2016-2017)

**ALA Department of Virginia Positions:**
- Department 100th Anniversary Chair (2018-Present)
- Associate Director, Virginia Girls State (2019-2022)
- Department National Security Program Chair (2019-2020)
- Department Legislative Chair (2018-2019)
- Department Public Relations Chair (2017-2018)

**ALA District 16 Historian (2016-Present)**

**ALA Unit 10** President (2017-2018) and Historian (2015-2016) (2019-2020)

Other volunteer positions: Freedom Museum, Manassas, VA, Vice-President, Board of Directors; Northern Virginia Veterans Parade, Board of Director Member; InterService Club Council of Greater Manassas, Vice-President; Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, Unit 15, Chaplain; George Brent Council Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary Past President and current Treasurer.

My husband Victor is a member of the SAL, and we have three adult children, and one grandson. I am retired from the Federal Government after 25 years with the ATF and IRS. What I love the most about the American Legion Family is the comradery and mission-directed activities.
A Place of Purpose in Times of Crisis
Members continuing to serve their communities, state and Nation

Members line up to buy mask-making supplies, cut, sew, finish and deliver masks to local businesses, and first-responders, to private and public healthcare facilities for kids and adults, to military and VA hospitals and to Navy Base Firefighters. Some are shipped to other states upon request, and others to nurses in Afghanistan, and for Lutheran Church Relief, the Gary Sinise Foundation and many other destinations. The count is incomplete but so far, it numbers in the thousands!
The American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Virginia
Call for Nominations

The Department of Virginia hereby issues a call for nominations for the offices of:

- Department President
- Eastern Zone Vice President
- Northern Zone Vice President
- Western Zone Vice President
- Department Historian
- Department Chaplain

Announced and endorsed candidates for office are as follows:

- Dawn M. Thomas for Department President
- Carolyn H. Cannon for Eastern Zone Vice President
- Ginger Harvey for Northern Zone Vice President
- Wilda Clear for Western Zone Vice President
- Carol G. Campbell for Department Historian

Due to the current circumstances requiring the need for a virtual Convention meeting, nominations must be submitted in advance; the email notifications of candidacy for any office will serve in place of nominations from the floor. Nominees must be notified of the nomination in advance and agree to be nominated. No nominations for any office will be accepted after June 1, 2020. Please submit any additional nominations to me at lisachaplin@lexacom.net

For God and Country,

Dr. Lisa Chaplin, DNP
ALA Department of Virginia,
President, 2019-2020
Have you renewed your Membership for 2020?

If you already have, thank you!
If you haven’t yet renewed, you can easily do that through one of these options:

• Renew on-line using the National Headquarters website
  • Go to alaforveterans.org
  • Log in to your account. If you don’t already have one, set up an account by selecting “Sign up” on the homepage. Be sure to have your prior membership card available - you will need your membership number. Then you will receive further instructions.
  • Once you have your account, the “Pay Dues” button will appear next to your name.
• You can also call the National Headquarters at (317) 569-4500 and renew by phone.

There’s always time to renew. Do it today...don’t delay!

The ALA Department of Virginia Office remote hours are as follows:
Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays 8:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.
The Department Secretary can be reached via email at auxva1805@gmail.com or you can leave a voice message at the Department office phone number.

The American Legion Auxiliary
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