



# Auxiliary Update

Unit President: Joanne Szarkowski

Spring 2004

## President's Message...

### Happy St. Patrick's Day and Happy Easter!

The year is almost over, but the hard work is still going on in the Unit. In March, we had the first nominations for our next year's officers and E-Board members. In April, we will have our second nomination of officers and elections. The new officers' names will be posted in the next newsletter. Our Unit is also proud to endorse two members to a higher office: Leslie O'Neill for Camden County Historian and yours truly for Camden County President. Good luck to all!

The Unit will be doing a new project in the coming months, so we need your help. The project is The Cook Book — so please send in your two (2) favorite recipes. You may drop them off at the Post office or send them to

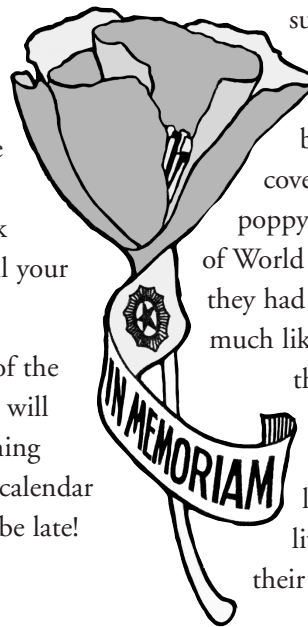
me at 33 Pacific Ave., Deptford NJ 08096. The deadline is July, so get busy! More information will be in the next newsletter.

A note of thanks to Carol Roach, our Membership Chairperson. She made out Unit a Goal Unit this past month. Thank you, Carol, again for all your hard work.

Don't forget this time of the year, the Post and Unit will be busy with all upcoming activities, so check the calendar on this page and don't be late!

For God and Country,

*Joanne Szarkowski*  
Unit 281 President



### May is Poppy Month Thank You For Caring

For over 70 years, the American Legion Auxiliary has sponsored Poppy Day to remind America that millions have sacrificed their lives and health to keep our nation strong and free.

In the World War I battlefields of France, poppies grew wild amid the ravaged landscape. How could such a pretty little flower grow wild while surrounded by death and destruction? The overturned soils of battle enabled the poppy seeds to be covered, thus allowing them to grow. The poppy became in the minds of "doughboys" of World War I, a symbol of the sacrifice which they had endured. Its brilliant red bloom, so much like the blood which had been shed there, became a sign of hope and renewal for those who lived and walked away. For those who would never leave, those who had sacrificed their lives, it was a perpetual memorial to their bravery.

In 1921, the American Legion Auxiliary adopted the poppy as the organization's memorial flower and pledged its use to benefit our servicemen and their families. Today, the poppy continues to provide a financial and therapeutic benefit to those hospitalized and disabled veterans who construct them, as well as benefiting thousands of other veterans and their families.

Veterans make each nine-piece poppy in Auxiliary sponsored Poppy Shops that supplement physical and psychological therapy needed by hospitalized and disabled veterans. The Auxiliary provides the

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#### Meetings and Events for April and May 2004

<b>April 14</b>	7:30 pm	Unit Meeting
<b>April 23</b>	7:30 pm	Awards Night
<b>May 12</b>	7:30 pm	Initiation of New Members
<b>May 15</b>	9:00 am	Camden County Auxiliary Convention at Brooklawn Community Center
<b>May 22</b>	6:00 pm	Installation of Officers

## Auxiliary Membership

I would like to thank all the members for their cooperation in getting dues paid. Although we did not make goal by December 31, 2003, we were close. As of our April meeting, we had a total of 175 members paid, and that is four over the 2004 goal! Sorry about all the reminders and the names being put on the bulletin board for delinquent dues, but it seemed to help. We made goal this time! Sometimes we just get caught up in other things and forget about some if we don't have a reminder in front of us. There are still a few names on the list who have not paid. If you know them, give them a nudge and let them know that if dues are delinquent more than two years, the next roster that comes from National will not have their names on it and they are no longer members of the Auxiliary unless they pay up. Thanks again, ladies.

We are doing very well signing up new members. Now we would like to see some of them at our meetings so they know what the rest of us do for activity in the 281 Family. We would like to welcome our newest members for the 2004 year:

<b>Genevieve Mroz</b>	<b>Teresa Perrupato</b>	<b>Geraldine Hargrove</b>
<b>Kathryn Drebes</b>	<b>Marilyn Horton</b>	<b>Denise Whalen</b>
<b>Maureen Coppolino</b>	<b>Anastasia Belsky</b>	

Welcome ladies and we hope to see you at some of our meetings and activities. Dates are listed in the calendar.

Don't forget — if your address or last name changes, notify the Membership Chairman or one of the other officers so the changes can be made and you won't miss your mailings. Great job and well done. Let's see if we can do it again in 2005!

*Carol Roach*, Membership and Unit Secretary

## Education Committee

### National Education Week (Nov. 16-22, 2003)

The committee assembled and delivered a goodie basket to C.W. Lewis School to thank the staff for their dedication to our children.

### Turkey Shoot (Nov. 22, 2003)

Congratulations to our winners of 2 turkeys and 2 turkey breasts: Glen Pickell, Chris Mayland, Lenny G. and Peg Tannock — and let's not forget Jim Conway's win!

*Donna Monteleone*, Education Chairperson

### Ham Shoot (April 3, 2004)

Despite all the intensive shooting, there were no injuries reported at the Ham Shoot. The competition was fierce, and the champs claimed their prizes of fresh and canned hams.



## May is Poppy Month, *continued*

materials and the volunteers. The veteran makes the poppy and is paid a small amount for each painstakingly-made flower. For some it is their only income.

No matter what the cost of maintaining and supplying the Poppy Shops, the memorial poppy is never sold, but given in exchange for a contribution.

American legion Auxiliary volunteers will distribute the familiar red, hand-crafted poppies honoring America's war dead throughout the month of **May 2004**. (So please look for one of our volunteers at **Incollingo's Stratford Market**, or make a donation toward one of our poppy plates.) We will ask you to wear a poppy and honor every American who has died for the American ideals of freedom, justice and equality. It's a small symbol of a great sacrifice.

On behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary, we would like to just say, "Thank You!" to all veterans.

*Leslie O'Neill*, 1st Vice President / Poppy Chairman

## Unit Veterans' Activities

On April 4th, Post 281 hosted the veterans from Vineland Memorial Home for an Easter Dinner.

During the coming weeks, Post Commander Jim Barrett and I will meet to plan an event for our Post members who served during World War II. Details will be available in the very near future.

### *For our women veterans...*

Please don't forget to register for your veterans' health benefits. You do not have to be sick to register. For more information, contact your nearest Veterans Administration hospital.

*Joanne Szarkowski*, V.A.R. Chairperson



The winners were, in order, Dick Mayland, Ron Marra, Jean Tannock and Ron Welsh. Congratulations, also, to our "Queen Mom," Joanne Monteleone. Despite her great talent on the boards (HA!), she gave everybody a run for their hams!

### Easter Basket Raffle (April 10, 2004)

An Easter Basket raffle raised an additional \$150.00 for scholarships and awards.

*Chris Mayland*, Education Chairperson