



Auxiliary Update

Unit President: Joy Graffius

Summer 2004

President's Message...

Fall will be a busy time for Unit 281!

The beginning of my first year as unit president was a very joyful time. But now that all the Memorial Day activities and the Department of New Jersey State Convention are in the past, it's time to talk about future events, so let me tell you about some of my plans for the coming year.



out and have a good laugh with the American Legion family.



Also in September, on the 23rd, we will be the host post for the county meeting, and for our new County President and past Unit President, Joanne Szarkowski.



That brings us to our regular meeting on October 13th.

On September 8th, we will host a dinner for all the girls sponsored by Unit 281 who attended Girls State at Rider University during the summer. Come on out and meet these terrific young women and hear about their Girls State adventures.



Our next event will be a giant yard sale at the Post on Saturday, November 6th, followed by our regular meeting on November 10th and by helping with the Post 281 spaghetti dinner for our veterans on November 11th.



I look forward to seeing you at our next function or meeting. Till next time, God Bless America...

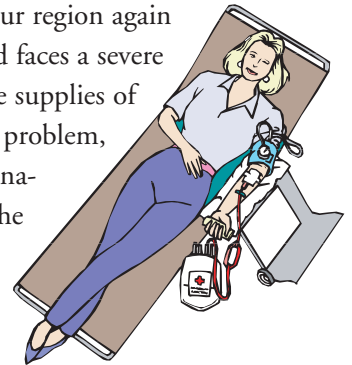
On Friday, September 10th, our Auxiliary Unit will sponsor a Comedy Night. Come on



Your Unit President,
Joy Graffius

End the Crisis — Donate Blood

After September 11, 2001, Americans stepped forward to donate blood in unprecedented numbers. Yet today, our region again is in a blood crisis and faces a severe blood shortage. Scarce supplies of blood are an ongoing problem, and the dropoff in donations directly affects the countless Americans in need of this life-saving gift.

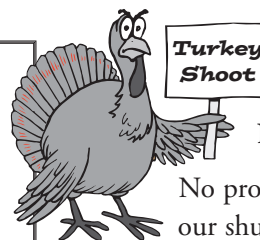


Generous men and women are needed to roll up their sleeves and save lives through the simple act of giving blood. The Auxiliary and S.A.L. are responding to the region's urgent need for blood donations by sponsoring a blood drive on **October 11th**, from **2:00 to 7:30 PM** at Post 281.

Almost anyone in good health, weighing at least 110 pounds and age 17 or older can donate — and more people should do so. If you are physically unable to donate, please ask a neighbor or friend or family member to donate. Don't wait until someone you know is in need. Help out now! We extend our thanks to our Legion Family for their support.
Marlene O'Neill, Community Service Chairperson

Meetings and Events for Sept. - Nov. 2004

Sept. 8	7:30 pm	Unit Meeting / Girls State Dinner
Sept. 10	9:00 pm	Comedy Night
Sept. 23	7:30 pm	Host Post for County Meeting
Oct. 13	7:30 pm	Unit Meeting
Oct 24	1:00 pm	Turkey Shoot
Nov. 6	TBA	Yard Sale
Nov. 11	TBA	Veterans' Day Dinner



Turkey Shoot

Need a turkey for Thanksgiving?

No problem! Win one ... by attending our shuffleboard turkey shoot on **Sunday, October 24th**. Feathers will fly at **1:00 PM**.

So gobble on down to the Post and sign up! Donations will be \$5 per person entrance fee. See the bartender for our sign up sheet. Proceeds benefit Auxiliary programs.

Membership

Time to Renew for 2005

Ladies, it's that time of year again... The 2005 membership renewals are here. You have probably received your renewal notice from National by now and, if you have noticed, the dues have gone up to \$14.00. The Junior dues also went up to \$5.00; National forgot to change this on the notices, so Junior members, please remember to send \$5.00.

You can begin paying anytime. Mail your dues to our post office box or drop them off at the Post in an envelope marked to my attention. I will be checking both places on a regular basis.

You did a great job last year with getting dues paid and we made goal! Let's do it again. Our Unit received recognition both in the County and Department. We are only in the first few weeks of receiving new dues and we already have about 60 members paid.

Don't forget — If you are paid by the October meeting, you will be eligible for the "Early Bird" drawing, which is \$25.00. The drawing will take place during the regular meeting on October 13th.

In addition to renewals for current members, we want to welcome our newest Unit 281 members:

Helen Leyendecker **Shirley Kalla**
Michelle Johnson **Barbara Masiko**

For God and Country,
Carol Roach, Membership Chairman



2004 Girls State Program

Unit 281 proudly selected and sponsored twenty-three delegates from our three Gloucester Twp. high schools — Timber Creek, Triton and Highland — to attend the 57th session of Jersey Girls State, American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Jersey, held in Rider University, Lawrenceville, New Jersey, from June 27th to July 2nd, 2004. Joining over 490 girls who have completed their junior year of high school, the following outstanding girls were sponsored by Unit 281:

Kristina Cherrier	Holly Gore	Karen Choi	Jennifer Lang	Amanda Desantis	Hang Ly
Natasha Gownaris	Ilene Lampitt	Erica Monteleone	Kelli O'Donnell	Ashley Ott	Samantha Rusk
Lisa Rapp	Susan Steiner	Karen Custodio	Amanda Thatcher	Casey Eustace	Lauren Caltabiano
Mugdha Agrawal	Skye Hamilton	Jasmine Austine	Arianne McKinney	Brittany McLarney	

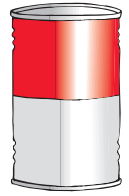
The total cost of the program for meals, dormitories and use of the facilities at Rider College is \$200 per girl. Our dedicated financial co-sponsors, who share in our enthusiasm for this program, have made it possible for us to greatly expand our program. Both the Girls State Delegates and Auxiliary Unit 281 would like to express our thanks and appreciation to:

American Legion Post 281	Glendora VFW 8714	Glendora Volunteer Fire Co. No.1	Hilltop Garden Center
Johns Mansfield	Blackwood Rotary	Blackwood Kiwanis	Mayor Sandi Love
Connie Spriggs	Susan Griffiths		

If you have a daughter or granddaughter beginning her junior year in high school, who is interested in this program in 2005, please contact me by phone (856-939-1531) or by e-mail at Susangriffiths@msn.com. *Susan Griffiths*, Girls State Chairman

Annual Food Drive

The Auxiliary Unit will sponsor its annual canned goods drive for needy families from October 13 through November 17, 2004. For your convenience, a barrel will be placed in the Post vestibule (directly between the can-teen doors and outside doors) for donations.



Auxiliary members can bring donations to our regular scheduled October and November meetings as well.

The baskets are scheduled to be delivered to the families on (or about) November 19th, in time for the Thanksgiving holiday. In addition to the baskets, a donation will be made to a local food bank.

On behalf of the Auxiliary Unit and Community Service Committee, we extend out thanks for any support you may render.

Marlene O'Neill, Community Service Chairperson

Education Committee

Scholarships Awarded

Auxiliary Unit 281 awarded three \$500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors, one in each of the Black Horse Pike Regional high schools. Congratulations to:

Andrew Holmes	Highland Regional H.S.
Ashli Egolf	Timber Creek Regional H.S.
Theodora Kachich	Triton Regional H.S.

Chris Mayland, Education Committee Chairperson