



Auxiliary Update

Unit President: Leslie O'Neill

Newsletter Editor: Carolyn Bausinger

Summer 2005

President's Message...

Meet our new Unit President, Leslie O'Neill...

I would like to thank the Auxiliary Unit for electing me as your new president. I look forward to working with you and all the committee chairmen. I want to congratulate Commander Fran McGovern and Squad Commander Tim Stillman. I wish them a successful and healthy year and look forward to working with both of them and their officers.



Since installation, my first month as unit president has been very busy. I attended our annual flagging of the graves and Memorial Day Services. It was an honor and privilege to be there to pay tribute to the men and women who fought for this country and made the ultimate sacrifices that enable each of us to enjoy the freedoms this country offers today. I would like to say "THANK YOU," to all the men and women who sacrificed their lives and who are currently sacrificing their lives. Their bravery and courage is beyond any words.

I also attended the Convention in Wildwood and had a great time with all of you and look forward to next year. In addition, I recently attended the Post Flag Burning Ceremony. Now that all Memorial Day and Flag Day

activities have come to a close, it's time to tell you a little bit about myself and some of my plans for the upcoming year.

On June 22, we had our first Executive Board Meeting during which we discussed the upcoming year's projects/fund raisers. I look forward to working with my Education Chairman, Chris Mayland, Children and Youth Chairman, Susan Gunderson, and Community Service Chairman, Marlene

O'Neill. I know they have many ideas and plans for the upcoming year and are anxious to share their ideas with our Legion family.

As our first fund raiser, we will raffle a 4th of July Cooler on July 3rd, with all proceeds benefiting the Unit's scholarships.

This brings us to September 14th, when we will host a dinner for all the girls sponsored by Unit 281 who attended Girls State at Georgian Court University during the summer. Come on out and meet these articulate young women and hear about their Girls State adventures.

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Meetings & Events for July - October

July 3	1:30 pm	Auxiliary July 4th Cooler of Cheer Drawing
July 13	7:30 pm	Unit Meeting
Aug. 10	7:30 pm	Unit Meeting
Sept. 14	7:30 pm	Unit Meeting / Girls State Dinner
Oct. 10	2:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Red Cross Blood Drive

**Don't forget to check our website for the latest information:
<http://www.njlegionpost281.org>**



Post 281, Unit 281 & Squadron 281 members take part in Memorial Day ceremonies.

President's Message

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On a personal note, I've been a member of the Auxiliary for eleven (11) years, several of which I have been involved at the County level and during which I have chaired several committees, both at the Unit and County Level. I am a Past Unit President, and was recently installed as Second Vice President of Camden County. I enjoy being active with all programs the Auxiliary has to offer. I believe in supporting our veterans and service men/women who are sacrificing their lives for our freedom. I am a firm believer in educating our youth and future of America as well as informing them of the American Legion and what we as a legion family have to offer.

Over the past four (4) years I have been a member of Unit 281 and during this time, I have chaired the following committees as well as participated in: National Security, Publicity, Poppies, and Legislation. As National Security Chairman, the Unit and I participated in the USO annual Cookie Drive sending several pounds of cookies to our service men and women overseas. We also sent packages for service personal stationed in Iraq.

I helped other committee chairman raise money for Girls State, Children and Youth, and Breast Cancer Awareness. I have represented both Unit 281 and County at Locustwood, God and Country Services, Past President Luncheons, Birthday Dinners, Department Meetings, and Vineland Picnics and Dinners.

Since my time as a member of Unit 281, I have become familiar and aware that Stetser-Lamartine is a Legion Family. I myself am family orientated and feel that Emerson's quote not only explains OUR Auxiliary Programs, but 281 as a family and would like to close with said quote:

"To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics; to appreciate beauty; to give one's self, to leave the world a bit better, whether by healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to have played and laughed with enthusiasm and sung with exultation; to know even one life was breathed easier because you have lived — that is to have succeeded..."

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting or function.

For God And Country
Your Unit President,
Leslie O'Neill

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2005 New Jersey Girls State

Unit 281 proudly selected and sponsored seventeen delegates to attend the 58th session of Jersey Girls State, American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Jersey. This year the program was held in a new location, Georgian Court University, Lakewood, New Jersey, from June 19–24, 2005. Seventeen outstanding young women were sponsored by Unit 281:

Triton High School

Brittany Deiling
Lisa Geraci
Sara Ryan

Angel Foglio
Alicia Otto

Timber Creek High School

Jolie Bonnette
Kaitlynee McMahon
Margie Papa

Yolande Greene
Jamie Smith

Highland High School

Lauren Ermilio
Kimberly Ostrum
Rebecca Short

Regina Kukola
Kristen Schuck
Ryan Thilo

Haddon Township

Laura Teter

During this one-week intensive course in citizenship, the Girls Staters learn by doing. Beginning at the city level and progressing to county and then state levels, they register to vote, file nomination papers, conduct political campaigns, give speeches and prepare campaign posters. The week culminates in the election of State Constitutional Officers and the Governor of Jersey Girls State. Speakers on government at various levels share their expertise with delegates as well.

The total cost of the program for meals, dormitories and use of the facilities at Georgian Court University is \$200 per girl. Our dedicated financial co-sponsors who share in our enthusiasm for this program have made it possible for us to sponsor the Unit 281 delegates. We would like to express our appreciation for their financial support to:

American Legion Post 281 **Glendora VFW 8714**
Glendora Volunteer Fire Co. No.1
Blackwood Rotary **Blackwood Kiwanis**
Hilltop Garden Center **Connie Spriggs**
Mayor Sandi Love **Susan Griffiths**
Donna & Jim Barrett and Erika Monteleone

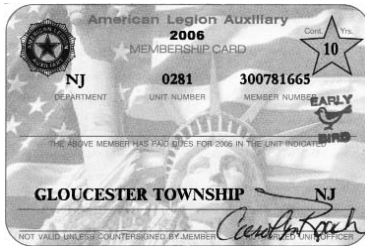
If you have a daughter or granddaughter beginning her junior year in high school, who is interested in this program in 2006, please contact me by phone (856-939-1531) or e-mail (susangriffiths65@msn.com).

Susan Griffiths, Girls State Chairman

Membership Report

2006 Membership Cards are here!

Another membership year has just come to a close. We missed our goal by only two members, but things are already looking up for 2006. We already have three new members who will be joining our Unit. They are **Mary Carroll**, **Mary O'Neil** and a junior member, **Victoria "Tori" Graffius**. These new members will be voted in during our July meeting.



The 2006 membership cards have arrived. so it is time to begin paying dues. I will send your card out to you as soon as I receive your dues payment; you

Education Report

Another successful year...

The Education Committee is pleased to announce that we have just finished a very successful year. Thanks to your support of Auxiliary programs and events, we have been able to award the following scholarships to graduating seniors:

2005 Scholarship Awards

May 25	\$500	Amanda Borton	Highland High School
June 7	\$500	Melanie Broughton	Timber Creek High School
June 9	\$500	Erika Marie Monteleone	Triton High School

Teacher of the Year

During our annual awards ceremony in May, we presented our Teacher of the Year award to Ms. Regina Rofrano, a first grade teacher at Chews Elementary School. Gloucester Township School Superintendent, Mr. Robert Suessmuth, talked about Ms. Rofrano and her work in the classroom, while the applause she received from the entire audience made it clear that her award was very well-deserved!

On a personal note, I would like to thank Mr. Suessmuth for all his help in selecting the Teacher of the Year for the past nine years. I will miss working with him on this project.

I would like to thank immediate Past Commander, Jim Barrett, for his help in raising money for our scholarships. Thanks go out also to the 500 Club for their donations, which were greatly appreciated.

For God and Country,
Chris Mayland, Education Chairman

do not need to wait for the notice from National to renew. Dues are still \$14 for senior members and \$5 for junior members. Let's see if we can make our goal by December 31st this year. And don't forget that "early birds" are eligible for the raffle at our October meeting!

If your name, address or phone number has changed since your last renewal, please let me know so the changes can be made in the Legion database. We want to be sure you receive all communications sent by the Legion and Auxiliary Unit.

You can mail your dues to:

Unit 281
PO Box 12
Glendora NJ 08029

...or drop them off at the Post. The barmaids will see that I get them. Thank you.

For God and Country,
Carol Roach, Membership Chairman



Junior member Erika Marie Monteleone received one of the 2005 Auxiliary Scholarship awards, presented by Executive Board member, JoAnn Monteleone. Erika also received the David R. Bowers Scholarship, presented by the Post 281 Past Commanders.

Add these fall events to your calendar...

Community Blood Drive

One of the most frequently asked questions prospective blood donors ask is “Why give blood?” The answer is because lives depend on it. The Red Cross must collect at least 6, 500 pints of blood each week, to meet the needs of patients in Southeastern Pennsylvania and Central and Southern New Jersey. People don't realize even in good times, the nation's blood supply is fragile. The need for blood continues to outpace the growth in blood donations. Every few seconds, someone needs a blood transfusion in our community. Of those Americans who may be eligible to donate blood, less than 5% actually donate each year.

Every day, there are private emergencies where patients need blood to support treatment that could save their lives. We are the source of our blood supply. Giving blood is one of the easiest and most important ways you can help your community.

“Together, we can save a life...”

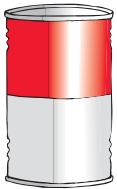
Members of Post 218, along with American Legion Auxiliary Unit 281 and our Sons of the American Legion Squadron 281, working together, can provide a service to our community. We would like to invite you to save another life by donating blood on October 10th, from 2:00–7:30 pm at our home Post.

Showing visibility in the community ensures continued community support and makes the public aware of our programs. It demonstrates to the community that we stand united in wanting to “Give Something Back” and responding to the needs of others. Because any one of us could need blood, your donation could help your family, a neighbor, or even yourself.

Don't wait until someone you know is in need. Help out now by signing up in the canteen. We extend our thanks to our Legion Family for their past donations and support.

Marlene O'Neill, Community Service Chairman

Annual Canned Food Drive



The Auxiliary Unit will sponsor its annual canned good drive for needy families from October 21 through November 16, 2005. For your convenience, a barrel will be placed in the Post vestibule (directly between the canteen doors and outside doors) for your

donations. Please place donations in bags before placing them in the barrel and check expiration dates on items. Auxiliary members can bring donations to our regular scheduled October and November meetings as well. Generous individuals donating turkeys, please place them in the freezer in brown bags marked for needy families no later than Thursday, November 17th.

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 and the Community Service Committee, we extend our thanks for any support you may render.

Marlene O'Neill, Community Service Chairman

2005 Department Convention

Our Legion family on parade!

*Right: Past Unit Presidents
Joy Graffius and Joanne Boyd*

*Below: Unit 281 members gave
out American flags along the
parade route*



*Bottom:
Post 281
rented a tram
to make sure
everyone could
be part of
the parade!*

