



**DEPARTMENT OF OHIO
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
MOMENTS IN TIME**

The Department of Ohio Auxiliary was organized April 12-13, 1921 in Columbus with Mrs. J.C. Jones of Cleveland elected as the first Department President and Mrs. Lowell Hobart (Edith) of Milford, the first Vice President.

Members of the American Legion Auxiliary are proud to be Americans. We are proud of our country and our flag. We are proud and honored to serve our Veterans and their Children. We are proud to be members of the world's largest patriotic organization of women.

We would like to dedicate this booklet to those Auxiliary members who have served this organization in the past, present and those in the future.

1921 The Department of Ohio was organized in Columbus. There were 108 active units with membership at 3200. Mrs. T.H. Halliday, a Gold Star Mother of Columbus, was Chairman presiding over this meeting.

Bess Wetherhold, of Gallipolis, was appointed Department Secretary and the Department Headquarters was established in Columbus.

The Department Convention was held in Toledo.

The first National Convention was held and Mrs. Lowell Hobart (Edith), of Milford, was elected as the first National President. (Milford OH)

Mrs. Franklin Lee Bishop, National President, requested to visit the National Military Hospital in Dayton.

1922 Bess Wetherhold resigned as Department Secretary to become National Secretary of the American Legion Auxiliary office in Indianapolis, Indiana. Another Ohio first.

The Department Convention was held in Dayton.

Department President Mrs. Earnest Rarey, of Cleveland, gave permission to Department Secretary Marie Moore to relocate Department headquarters to the Moore's home in Newark.

1923 Mrs. Lee E. Moore (Marie), of Newark, was appointed Department Secretary.

The Headquarters was located on South High Street, Columbus, across from the Franklin County Court House.

The Department Convention was held in Springfield.

1924 The World War Orphan fund was established to remember the orphans at the Ohio Soldiers and Sailors Orphan Home in Xenia by providing Christmas gifts.

The Department Convention was held in Zanesville.

1925 The Department Convention was held in Chillicothe.

1926 The Department Convention was held in Elria.

1927 The Department Convention was held in Canton.

1928 The Department Convention was held in Columbus.

1929 The Department Convention was held in Akron.

1930 The Department Convention was held in Cincinnati.

1931 Anne Eshelman was hired to work in the Department Headquarters.

Department Headquarters was relocated to Zanesville in Department Secretary, Marie Moore's home.

The Department Convention was held in Cleveland.

1932 The Department Convention was held in Toledo.

1933 The first Buckeye Messenger was issued. The cost was 25 cents a year for 4 issues.

The Department Convention was held in Lima.

1934 National Chaplain, Mrs. J.J. Doyle, of Toledo

The Department Convention was held in Sandusky.

1935 The Department Convention was held in Dayton.

1936 Central Division National Vice President, Mrs. Wilbur DeWeese, of Troy

The Department Convention was held in Portsmouth.

1937 The Department Convention was held in Columbus.

- 1938 The Department Convention was held in Cincinnati.
- 1939 The Department Convention was held in Akron.
- 1940 The Department Convention was held in Toledo.
- 1941 Department President Mrs. J. Ernest Giffin, of Bellaire, donated a membership quilt to Department Headquarters.
- The Department Convention was held in Youngstown.
- 1942 The Department Convention was held in Canton.
- 1943 The Department Convention was held in Cincinnati.
- 1944 Central Division National Vice President, Mrs. O. Linn Perry, of Piqua
- The Department Convention was held in Columbus.
- 1945 The Department Convention was held in Columbus.
- 1946 The Department Convention was held in Cleveland.
- 1946 The Department Convention was held in Cleveland.
- 1947 The first session of Buckeye Girls State was held at Capital University in Columbus with 304 delegates.
- The Department Convention was held in Cincinnati.
- 1948 The Department Convention was held in Columbus.
- 1949 The Department Convention was held in Columbus.
- 1950 The Department Convention was held in Cleveland.
- 1951 Central Division National Vice President, Mrs. Carl Zeller, of Gibsonburg
- The Department Convention was held in Columbus.
- 1952 The Department Convention was held in Columbus.
- 1953 The Department Convention was held in Cleveland.
- 1954 The Department Convention was held in Cincinnati. Past National President, Edith Hobart attended this convention.
- 1955 The Department Convention was held in Columbus.

- 1956 National President, Mrs. Carl Zeller, of Gibsonburg
The Department Convention was held in Cleveland.
- 1957 The Department Convention was held in Cincinnati.
- 1958 The Department Convention was held in Columbus.
- 1959 Central Division National Vice President, Mrs. Lester Nimon, of Canton
The Department Convention was held in Cleveland.
- 1960 The Department Convention was held in Columbus.
- 1961 The Department Convention was held in ???
- 1962 National Historian, Mrs. Lester Nimon, of Canton
The Department Convention was held in Columbus.
- 1963 The Department Convention was held in Cleveland.
- 1964 The Department Convention was held in Cincinnati.
- 1965 The Department Convention was held in Cleveland.
- 1966 Department Secretary, Marie Moore passed away and Anne Eshelman was appointed
Department Secretary. Department Headquarters continued at 737 Forest Ave. in
Zanesville.
The Department Convention was held in Columbus.
The Buckeye Girls State program won the George Washington Freedom Foundation
medal Award.
- 1967 The Department Convention was held in Cincinnati.
The Buckeye Girls State program won the George Washington Freedom Foundation
Medal Award.
- 1968 Central Division National Vice President, Mrs. Ralph Bates, of Minerva
The Department Convention was held in Columbus.
The Buckeye Girls State program won the George Washington Freedom Foundation
medal Award.
- 1969 The Department Convention was held in Cleveland.

The Buckeye Girls State program won the George Washington Freedom Foundation medal Award.

1970 First time a Mid-Winter Conference was scheduled the day prior to the American Legion's session.

First time to include the 40&8 on the Auxiliary's Poppy Shop Program.

The Department Convention was held in Cincinnati.

The Buckeye Girls State program won the George Washington Freedom Foundation medal Award.

Miriam Junge made a 16mm documentary of BGS with the assistance of a Columbus TV station. No cost to the Auxiliary.

Miriam Junge was endorsed as Ohio's candidate for National President.

1971 National Chaplain, Mrs. Lester Nimon, of Canton

The Department Convention was held in Cleveland.

1972 The Department Convention was held in Cincinnati.

The Buckeye Girls State program won the George Washington Freedom Foundation medal Award.

1973 The Department Convention was held in Toledo.

1974 Miss Anne Eshelman retired as Department Secretary and Doris Wainwright was appointed as the new Department Secretary.

The Department Convention was held in Columbus.

1975 The Department Convention was held in Dayton.

1976 The name of the Ohio Soldiers and Sailors Orphan Home was renamed to Ohio Veteran's Children's Home.

The Department Convention was held in Columbus.

1977 Central Division National Vice President, Mrs. Arthur Hrabak (Jo), of Maynard

The Department Convention was held in Toledo.

1978 The Department Convention was held in Cleveland.

The Buckeye Girls State program won the George Washington Freedom Foundation medal Award.

Mrs. Melvin Junge (Miriam) served as the first Deputy national Secretary.

1979 National Secretary, Mrs. Melvin Junge (Miriam), of Holgate

A plaque, reading “American Heroes Known Only to God” was presented to the Arlington national Cemetery.

The Department Convention was held in Toledo.

1980 Buckeye Girls State was located on Ashland University campus.

1981 The American Legion Auxiliary VIM Program was introduced.

The Department purchased Anne Eshelman’s home and established it as the Department Headquarters.

1982 National Chaplain, Mrs. Arthur Hrabak (Jo), of Maynard

National Convention Chairman, Mrs. Lyell Roush (Ruth), of Beverly

National Girls Nation Director, Mrs. Knowlton Lehnert (Mary Lou), of Bowling Green

The Department of Ohio donated funds to help National purchase two stained glass windows for the National Cathedral in Washington D.C.

The Buckeye Girls State program won the George Washington Freedom Foundation medal Award.

1983 The Department Convention was held in Akron.

1984 Mid-Winter Conference Banquet was remembered as the “Hat and Bird Banquet”. Phyllis Nickoson was Department President.

The Department Convention was held in Dayton.

1985 The Buckeye Girls State program was bestowed the honor of the George Washington Freedom Foundation medal Award

The Department Convention was held in Cincinnati.

The Buckeye Girls State program won the George Washington Freedom Foundation medal Award.

1986 Central Division National Vice President, Mrs. Homer Smith (Nancy), of McConnelsville

The Buckeye Girls State program was bestowed the honor of the George Washington Freedom Foundation medal Award.

The dedication of the stained glass windows held in Washington D.C.

The Department Convention was held in Cleveland.

The National Convention was held in Cincinnati.

The Buckeye Girls State program was bestowed the honor of the George Washington Freedom Foundation medal Award.

1987 Good Samaritan Medical Center, Zanesville, purchased 737 Forest Ave. and the Department purchased a new, one floor complex.

The Department Convention was held in Toledo.

1988 National Historian, Mrs. Warren Griggs (Anna Lee), of Marengo

The Department Convention was held in Dayton.

1989 The Department of Ohio reached an ALL TIME HIGH IN MEMBERSHIP with 51,919.

The Department Convention was held in Toledo.

1990 The Department Convention was held in Columbus.

1991 The Department Convention was held in Dayton.

The Buckeye Girls State program won the George Washington Freedom Foundation medal Award.

1992 The Department Convention was held in Toledo.

The Buckeye Girls State program won the George Washington Freedom Foundation medal Award.

1993 The Department Convention was held in Toledo.

The Buckeye Girls State program won the George Washington Freedom Foundation medal Award.

1994 Buckeye Girls State moved to the campus of Bowling Green University

The Department Convention was held in Dayton.

The Buckeye Girls State program won the George Washington Freedom Foundation medal Award.

National Secretary, Miriam Junge, retired.

1995 National Historian, Mrs. John Nickoson, (Phyllis) of Xenia

Central Division National Vice President, Mrs. Timothy Stoy (Desi), of Mansfield

The Department Convention was held in Columbus.

1996 Dean Bloxham hired as BGS coordinator.

50th Anniversary of BGS

The Department Convention was held in Toledo.

The Buckeye Girls State program won the George Washington Freedom Foundation medal Award.

1997 The Department of Ohio won the National Children and Youth Garland Murphy Award for the Child Welfare Foundation. This was the Department President, Pam Bates' (Shimek) special project.

Department Convention was held in Cincinnati.

The Buckeye Girls State program won the George Washington Freedom Foundation medal Award.

1998 BGS moved to Ashland University campus.

Department Convention was held in Cincinnati.

The Buckeye Girls State program won the George Washington Freedom Foundation medal Award.

1999 Doris Wainwright retired and Kim Budd was appointed the new Department Secretary/Treasurer.

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Ohio 80th Birthday. Doris Wainwright planned and produced a Mid-Winter show using the Past Department Presidents.

The Department Convention was held in Dayton.

The Buckeye Girls State program won the George Washington Freedom Foundation medal Award.

Phyllis Nickoson aided by Bob LaBounty converted the BGS 16mm film documentary of BGS in 1970 to VCR capability. A copy is at Department Headquarters.

- 2000 The Department Convention was held in Toledo.
The Buckeye Girls State program won the George Washington Freedom Foundation medal Award.
- 2001 Kim Budd resigned. Mrs. Mark Jackson (Pam) was appointed as Department Secretary/Treasurer.
The Department Convention was held in Cincinnati.
The Buckeye Girls State program won the George Washington Freedom Foundation medal Award.
- 2002 The Department Convention was held in Akron.
- 2003 The Department Convention was held in Toledo.
- 2004 Central Division National Vice President, Rene Reese, of Olmsted
The Department Convention was held in Toledo.
The Buckeye Girls State program won the George Washington Freedom Foundation medal Award.
The Department of Ohio won the National Children & Youth Legacy Ward.
The Department President, Gwen Schroeder, became Gwen Schroeder-Zulch, at the Honolulu National Convention.
- 2005 The Department Convention was held in Cleveland.
- 2006 60th Anniversary of BGS
The Department Convention was held in Dayton.
- 2007 The Department Convention was held in Columbus.
- 2008 National President, Mrs. Timothy Stoy (Desi), of Mansfield
Department Convention was held in Dayton.
- 2009 Pam Jackson resigned and Katie Wainwright was appointed Department Secretary/Treasurer.
Department Convention was held in Dayton.
Miriam Junge became an Honorary Past National President

*The George Washington Freedom Foundation Award was submitted and won over many years. The submittals were by: Agnes Merritt; Nancy Sallot; Norma Fryer for Nancy Smith; Phyllis Nickoson; Ardith Cooper; Pam Shimek-Bates; Patty Evans-Williams; Shelley Riggs.