



Membership is HOT!

**May – By Pam Bates, Unit Public Relations
Chairman**

POPPY QUEEN CROWNED

On May 3, Ruth Biteman, 10 year member of the ALA was crowned at the 50th Mother-Daughter Banquet. Ruth is an active volunteer for the American Legion Auxiliary and Senior Citizens Center. Congrats! (see article on page 2)



Pictured seated: Queen Ruth Biteman
Pictured left to right: Department President Thatcher; Pat Drake, Poppy Chairman; Megan Cole, 2009 Poppy Queen; Shirley Kaiser, Unit President

KUDOS TO THE NURSING HOME BINGO BABES



There's a group of ladies from this Unit who support the Nursing Home Bingo games at Wright Nursing and Patriot Ridge. They aide and support 17-26 residents playing bingo. BIG KUDO to Sophie who organizes the workers and provides the refreshments. You ROCK!

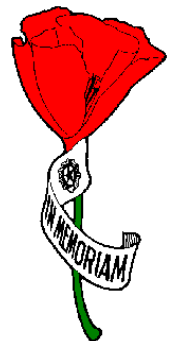
The other ladies who support this effort are Mary, Cuca, Sue, JoAnn, Loretta and Ruth. The Unit provides the money for purchasing bingo prizes.

Thanks Ladies for all your hard work!

THE POPPY PROGRAM

Did You Know...

THAT in the spring of 1919, amidst complete devastation, the poppies bloomed in abundance on the battlefields of France where so many of our veterans had fallen in battle, and that a replica of this poppy has become the Memorial Flower of the American Legion Auxiliary?



THAT The American Legion was the first national organization to adopt the poppy as its Memorial Flower, having taken this action at the national Convention in Cleveland, September 27-29, 1920?

THAT at the time The American Legion Auxiliary adoped the poppy it pledged 100% of the profits from the poppy distribution to welfare relief for servicemen and servicewomen and their families, thus fulfilling the true meaning of the poppy, an emblem of faith; faith which is being kept with all who died through service to the living?

THAT the public is given an opportunity each year to help in the significant work of The American



UNIT ELECTIONS – 17 May 2010

**THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DIGNAM-WHITMORE, UNIT 526
ANNOUNCES**

**ELECTIONS TO BE HELD AT THE 17 May 2010
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Legion Auxiliary, as well as an opportunity to pay tribute to all who died in service, by wearing a poppy on Poppy Days?

POPPY DAYS
14-15 May

This is your opportunity to pay tribute to all who have served & are serving, by wearing a poppy on Poppy Days? Please donate.

Donations will also be accepted at the Post or you can mail it in to American Legion Auxiliary, Poppy Chairman, P.O. Box 186, Fairborn OH 45324.

Want to volunteer to help collect contributions?
Call Pat Drake, Poppy Chairman @864-5377.

In Flanders Fields

by John McCrae, May 1915



In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

During the [Second Battle of Ypres](#) a Canadian artillery officer, Lieutenant Alexis Helmer, was killed on 2 May, 1915 by an exploding shell. He was a friend of the Canadian military doctor **Major John McCrae**.

John was asked to conduct the burial service owing to the chaplain being called away on duty elsewhere. It is believed that later that evening John began the draft for his famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

50th Mother-Daughter Banquet

Fairborn Unit 526 was first chartered in 1927 with 18 members under the name of Dignam Unit 526. The Post was named after George E. Dignam, the first Bath township casualty in WWI. In 1948, Osborn Post 526 and Fairfield Post 211 merged to form Dignam-Whitmore Post 526. This was to honor Robert Whitmore, the first Bath Township casualty in WWII. In 1950, the Unit was then chartered under that name. The Unit now has 334 members.

The Unit has many success stories through the years. They show community support by celebrating and actively participating in all holidays that celebrate our American heritage as well as volunteering in other community programs. The Unit supports Veterans and their families by donations to the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Program and Children and Youth Program. The Unit funds these activities through fundraisers during the year. This Unit has the distinct honor of one Department of Ohio American Legion Auxiliary President, Pam Bates; and seven (7) Third District Presidents five who are deceased and three living, Pam Bates, Sue Masten and Ellen Slone-Farthing. They have been privileged to have District and Department Chairmen through the years. Currently serving at the Department Level are Ellen Slone-Farthing, Community Service; Sue Masten, Constitution & Bylaws; Cuca Bowen, Field Service; and Pam Bates, Finance. Currently serving at the District Level is Sharon Dotterer, Children & Youth.

One of the oldest and most widely recognized American Legion Auxiliary programs is THE POPPY PROGRAM. Each year in May, our Legion Family volunteers to distribute the bright red crepe paper poppies in exchange for

contributions to assist disabled and hospitalized veterans. The program provides multiple benefits to the veterans and to the community. The hospitalized veterans who make the flowers are able to earn a small wage, which helps to supplement their incomes and makes them feel more self-sufficient. The physical and mental activity provides many therapeutic benefits as well. Donations are used exclusively to assist and support veterans and their families. The poppy also reminds the community of the past sacrifices and continuing needs of our veterans. Auxiliary members endeavor to explain the true meaning of this little flower to all those who receive it. The poppy has become a nationally known and recognized symbol of sacrifice and is worn and used by Auxiliary members to honor the men and women who served and died for their country in all wars.

In preparation for the local Poppy Program called "Poppy Days", on May 14 & 15, a Mother-Daughter Banquet was held to crown the Poppy Queen. The Department President, Martha Lee Thatcher of Massillion, gave brief remarks.

The climatic part of the evening was the Crowning of our 50th Poppy Queen. Our Poppy Queen this year is Mrs. Ruth Biteman, a 10 year member of The Auxiliary. She has been chaplain one year and she proudly states that she wrote all her own prayers. She cuts savings coupons for National Security program. She helps with bingo at the nursing homes and bakes for bake sales. She is also an active member at the Fairborn Senior Citizen Center.

As the evening concluded, Chairman Drake thanked those that made the event a success: Kitchen Crew: Pete Bates, Bruce Smith, Cuca Bowen and Sue Masten and Serving Crew: Past Post commanders: Dave Rust, Ed Trefethen, Hal Miller and Jack Reed. Members were reminded about Poppy Days on May 14 and 15. She The Poppy Chairman, Pat Drake, hopes that when you see one of the American Legion Family members asking for a donation to the Poppy program, you will give generously. Remember these donations go to aiding our veterans and their children through our Veterans and their families in our community.

If you will not be in Fairborn on May 14 and 15, you can donate by sending a check to American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 526, P.O. Box 186, Fairborn

OH 45324 or drop a donation by the American Legion Post, 526 Legion Lane, Fairborn. Please make checks payable to: ALA Poppy Program. If you would like to know more about this program or other programs sponsored by the ALA view their website at www.Unit526.com or Contact Pat Drake, Poppy Chairman @ 864-5377

THREE GENERATIONS AT MOTHER-DAUGHTER BANQUET



Right to left – Marvlyn Steggman; Tracy Pogue; Emily Pogue



Right to left – Pat and Barb Saunders; Megan Cole

AUXILIARY MEMBERS POST COLORS AT NARFE OHIO CONVENTION



On 30 April, 3 members of our Auxiliary, volunteered their time to post colors at the above convention. Those members are: Cuca Bowen, JoAnn Trefethan and Ellen Slone-Farthing. JOB WELL DONE LADIES!



**AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS
RECOGNIZED FOR CITY VOLUNTEERISM**



At the City Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Tuesday evening, individuals were recognized for volunteering on many community committees. It was stated that without these volunteers, many activities in the City of Fairborn would not progress forward.

Of those recognized, the following American Legion Family members (Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion) were acknowledged for their work in the Fairborn community: Mr. Pete Bates, City Investment Corporation; Mr. George Copfer, The American Legion; Mr. John Dugan, Festival Committee; Mr. Karl Hilt, Parks Foundation; Mr. & Mrs. Paul Moyer, Mayor’s Beautification Committee; and Ellen Slone-Farthing, Heritage Committee. Each received a small gift of appreciation from Councilman Tom Nagle and Councilman Daniel Kirkpatrick.

The dedication of the Legion Family to its community is part of our Preamble “to inculcate (encourage) a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation”. These members are just a few who dedicate themselves to the community and our veterans.

BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER
VOLUNTEER AS A CHAIRMAN OR WORKER
JOIN THE 50,500 AUXILIARY MEMBERS IN OHIO

The American Legion Auxiliary
Dignam-Whitmore, Unit 526, Fairborn
WANTS AND NEEDS YOU!!!

Looking for women to VOLUNTEER for the
Programs below

www.Unit526.com

legion526@sbcglobal.net

937-878-3831 Post Home Number

HERITAGE DAY IS COMING TO FAIRBORN

June 19, 2010

9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Main Street, Fairborn OH

www.fairbornheritagedays.com

5/3 Commons & Main Street Events

Mercer Smith Log House

Fairborn Senior Center

Central Park

CALENDAR

May

- 3 Mother-Daughter Banquet
(no Exe Mtg)
- 4 **VOTE**
- 8 Leadership Seminar @ Post 9am
Legion Family Invited
- 10 Wright Nursing Home Bingo 2pm
- 17 General Membership – ELECTIONS
- 19 Patriot Ridge Bingo 2pm
- 28 Auxiliary Dinner – 5:30-7:30 pm
Serving WINGS!
- 31 MEMORIAL DAY

June

- 5 ALA District Summer Convention Unit 586
- 7 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm
- 8 Joint Installation @ Post 6pm
- 12-19 Buckeye Girls State – Ashland University
- 21 General Membership Meeting 6:30pm
- 25 Auxiliary Dinner – 5:30-7:30 pm
- 25-27 Department Convention - Toledo