

# DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA AUXILIARY NEWS

August 2018  
Volume 9, Issue 2



## A Word from the President

By Jane Lawrence, Department President

I know everyone has been busy already, just as I have. I was honored to install several Units and Districts and am looking forward to working with all members.

In August I will be participating in the Old Soldier's Day Parade in Alpharetta and installing officers for other Units.

I will be attending the National Convention in Minneapolis for August 24 thru 30; I look forward to seeing some of you there.

I plan to schedule a meeting with the District Presidents in August to discuss what we would like to see happen this year.

Units, please make sure your officers dues are paid not later than August 31st. Officers should be the first to pay their dues as an incentive for our members to do the same.

I would like to visit the Districts and Unit meeting this year. I am asking each District President to send me their schedule of meetings, so I can prepare my schedule.

We look forward to the rest of this year and hope that everyone plans to work on our programs and MEMBERSHIP. Membership is down so let's work on increasing it by signing up new members and make sure members renew.

Keep working hard on the Auxiliary programs and be sure to keep records of what you accomplish, so the information will be available when it is time for reports.

For God and Country

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Father, we come to You, humble children seeking guidance as we endeavor to find way to fulfill our promise to serve You and our country. Bless all that we do and say. Make us truly instruments of Your will as we serve You through this great organization. Help us to guard well our heritage and grant that we protect our nation by our service. In Your Name, we pray. Amen.

## Secretary

By Patty Hawkins, Department Secretary

As our Membership is starting to fly our Membership theme is **Membership in Action Moving**

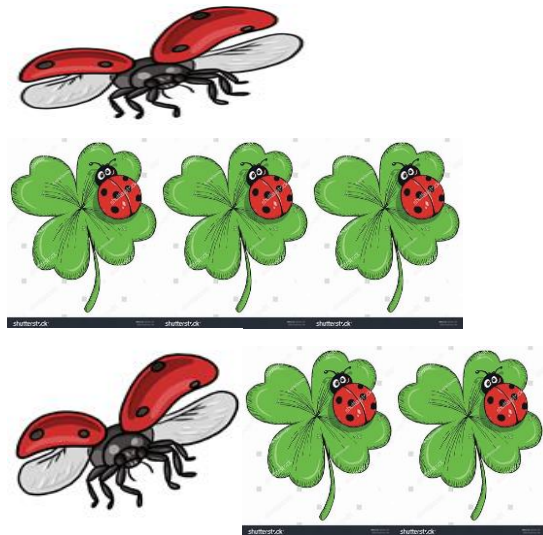
**Forward:** let's all pitch in to help getting new members and retaining our current members. I know there are ladies out there who are not aware of all the good work our Auxiliary does to help make the lives of our Veterans better. So ladies spread the word what we do. **Ladybugs in Action For Veterans.**

It's a great time to fly ahead and start collecting membership and not wait on the Renewal Notices.

I am including the **new 2018-2019 Obligation /Contribution form** with an explanation of each item on the list. **PLEASE throw away any old forms** you have and let's start fresh. I have received many questions in regard to the Obligation. Mandatory means they must be paid, some question the junior funds, even if you do not have juniors it must be paid. The comfort articles, **hostess party (if a unit is hosting their own party NO CHECKS WILL BE RETURNED, Must send proof that a party was held from the VA in order to get credit )** and every Unit must order poppies or send a donation to equal the poppy order according to the Unit size.

If you have not received your membership cards by now you will need to contact the Department to see what forms that are missing (ex: Unit Officers list and membership chairman form).

**The Department Fall Conference registration forms on our website. THE DEAD LINE IS SEPTEMBER 3, 2018 to reserve a room with the legion. THIS IS A FIRM DATE, so don't hesitate.**



## 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President / Leadership

By Valerie Brown-Debro, Dept. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President



### ALA DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP AUGUST NEWSLETTER

I would like to take this opportunity to say congratulations to all of the officers on your positions and share the excitement I'm feeling to serve, what an honor as your Leadership Chairman for 2018- 2019; I'm looking forward to a successful year in serving together with you, as the world's largest patriotic women's organization. I strongly believe in Leading by example. In order to that, we must have a form of effective communication.

In an effort to ensure consistency and help our districts and units focus on serving the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary, the ALA Programs Action Plan has transformed into a five-year plan (2017-2022), with an Annual Supplement published each year containing updates on committee members plus reporting and award deadlines.

The Leadership Program Action Plan for 2018-2019 along with the supplement is now available to download at [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org). Go to "Members Only", scroll down to "Programs Action Plan" Click to view. There are Leadership Unit & Department **Awards**, look for the requirements.

**"IMPORTANT LEADERSHIP REPORTING DUE DATES"** Mid-Year Narrative reports are due to me by **January 5, 2018** and Annual Year-end reports are due by **May 15, 2018**. Plus, Cc a copy to the National Leadership Chairman, Trish Ward (e-mail :) [tbw\\_ksaux@yahoo.com](mailto:tbw_ksaux@yahoo.com)

Contact your Units; let the communication start flowing, share the information and ideas, use social media, Facebook, twitter. Start collecting and sharing pictures of Leadership workshops, recommend ALA Academy curriculum, put emphasis on reporting include narratives. Encourage the completion of the **IMPACT NUMBERS REPORT**; it will also enable your effectiveness in your Department **IMPACT REPORT**.

I understand how passionate we are in achieving our purpose and mission, keeping our members engaged and in the know. Sharing our Leadership ideas and knowledge, as mentors, and liaisons to better develop "Leaders" within our Departments, Districts and Units; equipping every individual with the tools and resources to better serve our veterans, their families and communities.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate contacting me. We are here to support and welcome ideas and suggestions. Together, we can show our Leadership pride in Georgia.

Valerie Brown-Debro, ALA Leadership Chairman  
For God and Country

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Membership

By Susan Hall, Department 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your 2nd Vice President and Membership chairman for the 2018-2019 year. I am looking forward to a great year where we go back to the basics in growing our membership. The membership theme this year is **Membership in Action Moving Forward**. We need to move forward to change the downward trend of our membership within our units. I am asking the Unit, and Districts Presidents to reach out and contact all new members within the first 30 days of joining the American Legion Auxiliary. I will also be calling new members throughout the state to ask if the member has heard from either their Unit President or District President. The new membership goals for the 2018-2019 are out. I have gone back to the basics on calculating your unit's membership. I took the average of the last 2 years membership and increased it by 2%, New units whom didn't have an average were increased accordingly. If we all reach our goal this year in our units we will have increased our membership in the Department by over 1,000 members.

Remember all officers should have their 2019 dues paid prior to installation, that means that by the end of the month all units should be off zero. I will be giving a special gift to the first District that has all of the Units within their District off zero at the Fall Conference.

This year I will be implementing target dates, the new target dates for membership are as follows; October 12<sup>th</sup> - 25%, January 4<sup>th</sup> - 50%, March 15<sup>th</sup> - 75%, May 9<sup>th</sup> - 100%. There will be special awards for those units and districts that reach these target goals.

2019 Online renewal and rejoin membership cards will be sent out by National this year. First renewal notices will go out on September 15<sup>th</sup>, please make sure that the addresses of your members is correct. I encourage all units to sign up for the ALA MIS program, this is a good way to help track your membership and make sure that your members information is correct.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve and I look forward to working with all the Units and Districts this year. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me at 508-944-0791, or email at [suem\\_66@yahoo.com](mailto:suem_66@yahoo.com).

Susan Hall  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

## HISTORIAN CORNER

By Phyllis Singleton, Department Historian

It's a new Auxiliary year and looking back it's easy to see how important it is that Unit and District Historians take the time and energy to document the many activities of their Auxiliary sisters as we serve veterans, communities and our Legion family around the state. So many worthy projects and programs—from holidays and celebrations, memorial ceremonies and funerals, to events and installations—the ALA is a non-stop history making machine. By the time summer is over, workshop schedules will be determined but until then, think History! Make sure you put a planning calendar together to mark important dates and activities—for instance, officer installations at Units throughout the state will be coming right up. So make sure you look ahead and make plans to capture historic and important moments in the progress of your Unit and District. Ensure that someone has a camera and gets a shot of that Poppy Day fundraiser or Veterans Day Ceremony.

Our organization and our future are only as good as our history—without it, we have no real benchmark to see where we've been or where we're going. Think about traditions in this great nation...are not the Pledge of Allegiance and the Soldier's Creed important symbols of national resolve and unity? Traditions come from history—from shared knowledge and honored customs that we compile and chronicle so that our descendants may reflect upon the things our nation respects and reveres.

So historians...the next time you think about ALA history, consider how important the job of recording history is, and remember to do your part to capture those important moments in the life of your Unit or District. If you have the ability to convert your history photos and memorable activities into digital files as well as scrapbook material, your history becomes more permanent and valuable to the Unit and District.

For God and Country,

Phyllis Singleton

Department of Georgia Historian

## Chaplain

By Sandra Gardner, Department Chaplain

Greetings, From the Chaplains Corner.

The Lady Bugs have been very busy during our incoming month and a half. It has been a great honor to serve as Chaplain for The department of Georgia. Thank you all for your confidence you have placed in me.

Thus far I have offered up prayer at several of our installations. I offer up prayer to our veterans and to our military on active duty.

Serving as Chaplain provides the opportunity to guide other auxiliary members in fulfilling the purpose of our organization.

I am looking forward to serving in the new year 2018 - 2019 and hope I can meet your expectations as your Department Chaplain.

For God and Country.

Sandra Gardner.  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Georgia Chaplain.

**Volunteer Representative Found**

**New VA& R Representative for  
Atlanta/Decatur VA**

**Ms. Eileen Devine**

**Unit 66 Avondale Estate**



## **Important Information:**

Fall Conference is just around the corner. The new Department Adjutant has said the deadline for hotel reservations is September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please make sure we adhere to this request.

The form is on the website: [galegionaux.org](http://galegionaux.org)



# JUNIORS CORNER

Will return next month.

## American Legion Auxiliary Honor Our Female Veterans

For Female Veterans who join as new members for the 2019 Membership Year, the national portion of dues (\$12) will be waived for their first year of membership.

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Georgia voted at our Fall Conference in 2015, for Female Veterans who join as new members for the 2019 Membership Year, the Department's portion will also be waived for their first year of membership.

Some of the Units are waiving their membership portion as well.

Ladies this is one way we can Honor Our Female Veterans and build our membership. Lets' make them feel welcome!



## ALA MIS PROGRAM ACCESS for UNITS Membership

The fee is \$10 per year per person (2 per Unit). This is the fee National charges. Forms are on the website or call the Department for copies. Due to the enforced rules all forms must be completed and signed by 5 current Unit Officer. At no time is an authorized person using ALA MIS is to share their password with anyone. If a person needs to be changed please send in a new form right away. Please let us know ASAP.

If your Unit wants to continue having access to the ALA MIS the department must receive new forms and \$10 for each person per calendar year.

**New:** District Presidents can now have access to all the Units in their districts. This will be a read only and cannot make any changes. The fee is \$10 and will be good until December.

National will be billing the Department for any users on January 1, of the current year. If you want to continue to have access to the ALA MIS, make sure your check is sent to the department. Many of units have not sent in their ALA MIS access payments, so effective January 1<sup>st</sup>; they will no longer have access.

