

DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA AUXILIARY NEWS

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American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Georgia, 3035 Mt Zion Rd, Stockbridge, GA 30281
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A Word from the President

By Rosa Scott, Department President

Decision, Decision! Often a choice is made and you reflect back on it and you are not sure if you chose the right one. I can tell you without a doubt that my decision to continue this journey with the American Legion Auxiliary as Department President has been the right one.

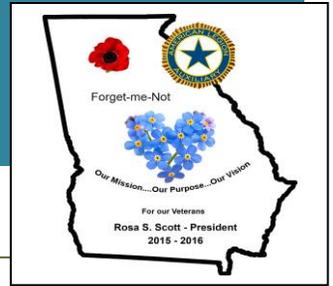
This organization has allowed me to challenge myself in ways I could not have imagined. Also it has provided a way for me to fulfil the wish of my late husband, Lindsay O Scott.

Making decision has and always will be a part of being in a leadership role, but you don't travel along. There is team of supporters behind you, if you allow them to be.

Since the hospital visit in Augusta, GA in December I wondered what could "top" this. Little did I know what was on the horizon? There had not been a lot shared about the conference in Washington, DC other than what was e-mail to those who would be attending. Members who attended in prior years had their observation and opinions. However, I want to share this with you. My experience was amazing, exciting, adventurous and educational, etc. etc... My decision to attend the Washington Conference 2016 will be one that I will always remember as the right choice!

I was able to take advantage of everything I could from the Parade of Checks for the National Emergency Fund, a beautiful luncheon, thanks to Past Department President Susie Mash, attending a breakfast at 7:00 a.m.; then to the "Commander Call" and on to Capitol Hill.

What will be a lasting memory for me is being among the Legion Family Members listening to our National Commander, Dale Barnett speak to a joint meeting of the Senate House and Committee on Veterans Affairs.



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Inserts: IMPORTANT Membership Information

I have a new found respect for the phrase "walking the halls of congress" and "soaking in every moment".

The travels I have been privileged to be part of during this year has made a very profound impact on me. It has provided me the opportunity to view our organization on many levels, Units, District and especially National as never before.

Once I have obtained the knowledge, it becomes my responsibility to share it with others. This is another part of the leadership role. I will encourage those who are interested to contact me and let's talk.

Now what else is coming?

We will have our SDNVP, Flora Jean Craig with us at our Spring Conference and I know each of you will make her feel at home.

We are planning to have fun while learning at our American Legion Auxiliary College this year. We will be interacting with you, the members. The information we plan to share with you this year can only grow if you share it within your Unit and District.

Our National President, Sharon Conatser, will be here on May 10th-12th, planning is still underway. There should be an itinerary posted very soon.

As we move forward it continues to be about the mission, the vision and purpose for our Veterans!

Forget-me-Nots..Our Mission.. ..Our Purpose ..Our Vision for Our Veterans.

Secretary

By Patty Hawkins, Department Secretary

Our Spring Conference is March 17 - 20, 2016 at the Sonesta at Gwinnett Place. **The DEC will meet @ 6:00 pm on Thursday March 17th.** We will have our regular meeting on the 18th. We are planning on having an Auxiliary College on the 19th, finishing up on the 20th after the Poppy dedication service. We will be having the National Southern Division Vice President Flora Jean Craig visiting with us.

We have some units that have not paid their obligations, if your unit has not sent theirs in please get them in now. If you need the forms either get them off the web page or call me and I will mail them to you. This is very important, our Convention will be here before you know it and in order to vote the Obligations must be paid. **Remember we voted NOT TO ACCEPT any payments for Obligations at the Convention.**

I will be passing out Poppy Orders at the Conference. If you are planning on being there please let me know.

Membership forms will be on the web page.



March 13th at 2:00am



For God and Country

1st Vice President / Leadership

By Miriam Stein, Department 1st Vice President

Ladies, I am very happy with our Districts..I had 4 Districts to send a yearbook and 5 Units. I was hoping for more but it didn't happen.

I have had 37 auxiliary members to take the National Leadership course and 5 Legionnaires. I am hoping there will be more before the end of the year.

Our year is really passing by quickly. The Spring Conference will be here before we know it. I went to Washington DC conference but the weather didn't agree so I came back early.

The time for reports is getting closer. Please start gathering your information for the Units. Unit elections are getting closer so start preparing for it. If you need any help from just email or call me.

For God and Country

American Legion Auxiliary Honor Our Female Veterans

For Female Veterans who join as new members for the 2016 Membership Year, the national portion of dues (\$9.00) will be waived for their first year of membership.

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Georgia voted at our Fall Conference October 23, 2015, For Female Veterans who join as new members for the 2016 Membership Year, the Department's portion of dues (\$8.00) will 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. Make them feel welcome!

2nd Vice President/Membership

By Anita Owens, Department 2nd Vice President

Members, you have been working really hard but we still have a ways to go before we can meet our objectives. Our March 15th "Legion Birthday" goal of 80% is right around the corner and we are closing in, we only need 932 renewals or new members submitted to meet this goal. Did you know we still have 2,027 members from last year that have not renewed their membership? You know Spring is just around the corner and now is the time to get those Forget-Me-Nots to burst open and bring on the memberships. This is something that can be accomplished but only if we work at it, pick up the phone and call someone who has not renewed, get your members actively involved.

This last month I was able to visit 2nd and 6th District at their meetings and talk about membership and I really appreciate the invitations and the ability to talk to our members. Our Spring Conference is coming up this month and I am asking you to please come and share with others ideas you have that have worked for getting your memberships in. We now have nine (9) Units at 100% or over, this is fantastic and I would love to add more to that list.

Look forward to seeing you at the Conference.

PERCENTAGE GOALS FOR MEMBERSHIP

2015-2016

Labor Day	September 7, 2015	25%
Columbus Day	October 12, 2015	35%
Veterans Day	November 11, 2015	45%
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	December 7, 2015	60%
Valentine's Day	February 14, 2016	75%
Legion Birthday	March 15, 2016	80%
Earth Day	April 22, 2016	85%
Armed Forces Day	May 21, 2016	90%
Flag Day	June 14, 2016	95%
Independence Day	July 4, 2016	100%
30 Days National Convention	July 30, 2016	102%

Historian

By Jane Lawrence, Department Historian

Ladies, February was a very fast month and March is here and it is time we really get busy preparing our History Books and Reports. I am sure all the units' historians must have a lot to put in your History Books. During this time of the year there is a lot of things going on, it is very important to keep up with it, for the yearly reports will be due soon.

As we near the last months of putting together the History Book and the History Reports here are some things you may want to remember.

- Gather all the information you have of events held at your Post/Unit.
- Start to write your story.
- Revisit the guidelines for the History Book and History Reports and check off each one as you go.
- Make sure your Book and Report is submitted on time.

The Auxiliary College will be part of our Spring Conference, another notable moment for our Department. This is an event you don't want to miss.

Hope to see you at Spring Conference.

I would like to wish each of you a Blessed Easter.

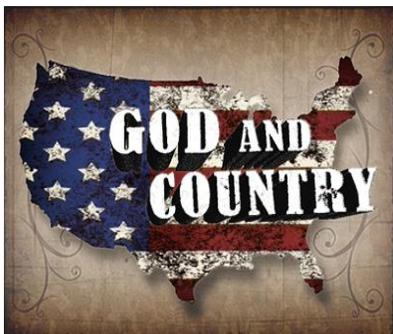
For God and Country

A big "Thank You" to all the Units who made this possible. Georgia's President presents AEF check to National President Sharon Conaster.



Chaplain

By Valerie Brown-Debro, Department Chaplain



God's Country, a place conceived of as especially favored by God. On July 30, 1956, President Eisenhower signed the law designating "In God We Trust" as the official motto of the United States. Do you really trust Him? An act of Congress on April 22, 1864 formally put the motto "In God We Trust" on coins, having first appeared on the short-lived two cent bronze piece coined in May 1864. By 1866, "In God We Trust" was appearing on the five, ten and twenty dollar gold pieces; five, twenty-five and fifty cent pieces; and one dollar silver pieces.

"Service to God and Country" is an American Legion program whose saying describes our members' attitude and way of life. The American Legion's founders believed that God and country cannot be treated as mutually exclusive if the United States is to survive and prosper. Without God, there is no Americanism.

A Family that prays together, stays together... Father God Thank you for allowing us to serve you. We thank you for the United States of America, the land of the Free. We thank you for our Leaders, our Veterans their families and community.

We are holding on to our prayers for those who have been afflicted with illness, By His stripes you are healed. He said in His word, I will never leave you nor for sake you comforter. Many have lost their loved ones; God is your strength and comforter. Many have had financial challenges; Your increase is on its way! Have faith in God; believe you receive when you pray and you shall have what your heart desires.

Chaplains our **Year- End reports** are near. I look forward in having a good report and receiving your prayers, poems and encouragements that you send to me for our President's prayer book.

For God & Country

Valerie Brown-Debro

ALAMIS PROGRAM ACCESS for UNITS--- Membership

We need to get your form and information so that we can get started training. The fee is \$10 per year per person (2 per Unit). This is the fee National charges. We would like to setup a training class by mid-January. Forms will be 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. Please let us know ASAP.

Our webpage is being updated!!

If anyone had any suggestions as to what they would like to see on the website send me an email. We are open for suggestions and your input is important 😊

Juniors Corner

The Juniors will be meeting at the Spring Conference. They will only meet Saturday March 19 from 9:00am to 4:00pm in the Athens room. Lunch will be provided. An adult must sign the junior in and out.

The Junior President is working hard on her special project. Comfort items (travel size and regular size) for the hospitalized veterans. Please bring any you might have to help her.

We are in the process of planning the 2016 Junior Department Convention. Mark your calendar for Friday June 24 and Saturday June 25. This will be the same time as the Department Convention at the Sonesta Hotel in Duluth.

Convention registration will start 8:30am on Friday June 24. Registration fee is \$25.00 to assist with food and supplies. Checks to be made to Department. The meetings will be 9:00-4:00 on Friday and Saturday 9:00-3:00 with the Junior Installation at 2:00 Saturday. We to hope to have a pool party Saturday evening.

The girls must have an adult to sign them in and out each day. There will be no sleep over. Room reservation can be made with Department. More information will follow in next newsletter.

Hope to see a lot of our Juniors there. If you have any questions, you can contact Latrisha Linaweaver at 706-364-3610 or Linda Shockley 404-234-2102.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Educating and Recognizing our "Star Spangled Kids"

Our local schools are full of children waiting to hear from our veterans and service members sharing their stories of defending the Constitution. We have good citizens in our classrooms who would love to be given a Unit Citizenship Award. A G.I. Josh dog given to a child whose parent or sibling is being deployed can help them with the separation.

These are just some of the ways the American Legion Auxiliary can recognize and respond to the needs of our Children and Youth. Has a child in your neighborhood performed an act of heroism or a good deed worthy of our Youth Hero or Good Deed award?

We don't have to look far to find our "Star Spangled Kids". April is Children & Youth Month and will be here before we know it, so let's give them the support and recognition they need and deserve. Seek them out in your individual Unit; plan an Easter Egg hunt or a picnic. Print and distribute Pocket Constitutions. If you need any assistance, I am just a phone call away. Time spent mentoring a child is the best time of our life.

Judy Lively, Children & Youth Chairman

Bulletin # 2

Georgia Girls State

WHERE: Statesboro, Georgia at Georgia Southern University**WHEN:** June 12- 17, 2016**Fee is \$260.00 per girl****District Counselor Fee of \$260.00 and counselor selection is due ASAP****QUALIFICATIONS:** Interest in government, leadership, citizenship, honesty, scholarship, character, and completion of their **junior** year in high school.**ORIENTATION:** Orientation should be a part of your Girls State plan so that the girls and their parents understand in advance what to expect upon arrival. Please call on a staff member in your area to help with your orientation if help is needed. Former Girls Citizens can also be helpful when getting students prepared for the session.**PUBLICITY:** Unit chairmen, be sure to contact local media for coverage as soon as your delegates have been selected. Many newspapers are willing to publish pictures and short articles about the program. Invite delegates to a unit meeting after the session to report to the unit.**FEE:** Checks must be made out to Girls State and mailed to the Department Headquarters. **Send the fee of \$260.00 per girl to the American Legion Auxiliary Department Headquarters, 3035 Mt. Zion Road, Stockbridge, GA 30281 before April 30, 2016 to assure space for your girls.****Reminder: Parent must fill out a medical history/consent form. A physical by a doctor is not required.****APPLICATIONS:** Applications are available by calling or emailing me, or they can be picked up at Conference or accessed on the website.**To Be Mailed to the Director:** After applications are filled out by the girl, the high school and the unit, please send applications, medical history & consent forms, parent waiver, a copy of both sides of the girl's insurance card and photos to **Deedy Harrell, 800 E. 10th Avenue, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169 by May 15, 2016. This is the deadline, so please try to get them to me **earlier**, if possible. Delays cause your girls to have difficulty in getting prepared for the program. If you find out that a girl is not coming after having sent in her application, please let us know. We make phone calls to all no shows on Sunday, June 12, 2016, and it will help us if we can limit the number of calls necessary. Let us know even up the last day.**

After I received the application, I will send the forms packets to the girls. If you plan to print the forms packet for your girls, please signify that on the application. It will save postage for Girls State

WEBSITE: www.georgiagirlsstate.org On the website you will be able to get applications and all documents necessary for girls' packets.**EMAIL:** Georgia Girls State email: georgiagirlsstate@gmail.com for the director, Deedy Harrell**PHONE number:** 770-337-7997 (Cell). Call or text.**IMPORTANT DATES:****APRIL 30, 2016 Checks for \$260.00 per girl due to the Department Headquarters****May 10, 2016** Completed applications, medical history and consent form, parent waiver, copy of both sides of the insurance card and photo of the girl due to Director.**June 12, 2016 Arrival at Girls State between 1:00 and 3:00 PM****June 17, 2016 Graduation at 8:45 AM and departure by 1:00 PM**

Please join the Girls State Booster Club!! This gives the girls extras that are not a part of the fee. We accept donations for extra staff members and necessary supplies for the program. THANKS! Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Thanks for your support of American Legion Auxiliary Georgia Girls State.
Deedy Harrell, Director

PAST 😊 PRESIDENTS 😊 PARLEY

Hello Out There In Auxiliary Land!

This Is Your Friendly Past President Parley Chairman And I'm Here To Tell You That Scholarships Will Be Handed Out At Convention In June But That's not Gonna Happen If We Don't Get Donations In. Don't Make Me Sweat These Donations Out till The Last Minute, Send Them In Early! You Know How Expensive School Is. These Deserving Kids Needs Your Support.

We will be Raffling Off a **Lap Top Computer and a Computer Tablet**

The person having the first ticket drawn can choose to take the lap top or the tablet the second ticket holder gets the other.

The tickets will be \$5.00 each.

I Will Have Tickets Available At The Spring Conference. They Will Be \$5 Each. Hopefully We Will Be Able To Sell Enough But To Be On The Safe Side.

When You Get A Brochure In The Monthly Bulletin Wanting To Know How many People Are Going To Attend The PPP Luncheon, Please Explain To the Ladies That Will Be Attending The Convention Just How Important The Meal Is For Our Children. Let Them Know That We Would Like For Them To Attend. Thank You All For Your Hard Work And Dedication In Our Auxiliary.

Betty Grist, Past President Parley Chairman

MEMBERSHIP NEWS ***Important***

The 2017 Dues Rate Change forms must be received no later than May 1, 2016!! Please do not put them aside and forget them. Remember a New Form must be sent every year as the database clears out last year's information and all new information must be entered for the New Year!!!!

The 2017 New Officers Form, 2017 Dues Remit to Form and Delegate forms for the Department Convention will be coming out soon so please keep watching your Newsletters for this important information.

We will be updating the Website soon with all of the New Forms that will be needed for the 2017 Membership Year!!! So please keep checking back often.

Remember that these forms must be received on time in order to receive your 2017 Membership packets. National sets deadlines we have to meet in order to give them their information and if we do not have your information to input there is nothing we can do and it is out of our hands. So please remember how important this information is to your Unit.

Thanks, Krista



President's Theme:

"Forget-me-nots..Our Mission...Our Purpose...Our Vision for Our Veterans."

Membership Theme:

"FORGET ME NOTS ARE BURSTING OPEN FOR MEMBERSHIPS"

National President's Theme:

"Keeping the Promise"

Calendar of Upcoming Events 2015 - 2016

March 13, 2016	Day Light Saving Time Begins
March 17, 2016	St. Patrick's Day
March 17, 2016	DEC Meeting Duluth 6pm
March 17 - 20, 2016	Spring Conference/College - Duluth
March 25, 2016	Good Friday (Dept Closed)
March 27, 2016	Easter

May 13-15, 2016	National Commander Dale Barnett Homecoming
June 12-17, 2016	Girls State, GSU, Statesboro
June 23 - 25, 2016	Department Convention Duluth, GA
Aug 26 - Sept1, 2016	98 th National Convention Cincinnati, Ohio



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