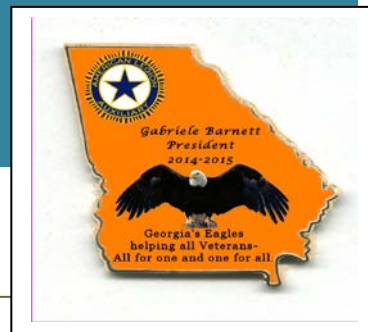


DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA AUXILIARY NEWS

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A Word from the President

By Gabriele Barnett, Department

A Holiday message from the President:

During this Holiday Season, a season of giving and sharing, a season of worship, a season of giving thanks, and a season of family gatherings, some families around the country have that special person missing at their table. While we enjoy this season, let us not forget the many men and women of our Armed Forces and their families who sacrifice so much to ensure our freedom. Norman Vincent Peale once said that "Our Holiday celebrations - whether Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, or any of our other special observances - wave a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful". The Holiday season is a beautiful time of the year and an appropriate opportunity to reflect on our mission - taking care of our veterans. During this special season let us not forget our homeless veterans. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), an estimated 49,933 veterans are homeless on any given night. Participating in the Homeless Stand Down in Augusta in October was a sobering and heart breaking experience. I think I stopped counting after serving 700 veterans. The sad part was to see the increased number of homeless female Veterans and their children. Many of our homeless veterans suffer from PTSD, drug and alcohol problems. The upcoming Holiday season will be especially challenging for them. Statistics show an increase in suicide due to hopelessness, loneliness, and the feeling that their life is not worth living. During this season try to make a special effort to lend a hand to a homeless Veteran, a few nice words, or a handshake to let them know they are not forgotten.

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The homeless are people, just like us, with one exception, Craig Mayes, executive director of New York City Rescue Mission, said in a statement. "They are in trouble and in pain. And they are someone's uncle or cousin or wife." Take a minute and watch the video posted on the website below. Let's make a difference.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6jSKLtmYdM>

Continue the great work you are doing for our veterans. A small gesture can speak volumes.

I wish all of you a peaceful Holiday Season and a very Merry Christmas. May God bless each and every one of you. May God bless the men and women who serve, and have served, and may God continue to bless our United States of America.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

For God and Country

Membership Theme:

"Georgia's Eagles Soaring to New Heights"

"Georgia's Eagles taking care of All Veterans. All for one and one for all"

Secretary

By Patty Hawkins, Department Secretary

Well the last month of the year has arrived, where did the year go? We have all been busy trying to get our jobs done, making our Auxiliary stronger. The VA Hospital Joy Shops are in full swing. Oh what Joy our Auxiliary members bring to the deserving veterans.

Now the Holidays are upon us. It's time to relax and spend time with our family and friends. Without them where would we be? As your families gather together, remember the ones that have made it possible for us to enjoy our freedom. May God watch over and protect our Military family, who cannot be with their families. May the families who have lost someone find peace in the memories they have shared. To all of our Veterans, THANK YOU and God Bless.

Each member should be proud of all you have accomplished in helping with our programs. Without each and every one of your support, we would not be able to do all that we do. What a blessing it is to hear all the great stories of all that is being done. Ladies your love shines through, in all that you do. I couldn't think of a better way for you honor our heroes. My wish for all of our Auxiliary members is for you have a very Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and may you be blessed with all that you need. Please stay safe.

Please remember to be a member in good standing your 2015 Dues must be paid by December 31, 2014.



May your Christmas sparkle with moments of love, laughter and goodwill, and may the year ahead be full of contentment and joy.
Have a Merry Christmas.



1st Vice President / Leadership

By Rosa Scott, Department 1st Vice President

The year began with small steps to guide us of motivating our members and before you know it we are almost through the mid-way point.

The information you have read though the Plan of Action or the tools seen on the web-site continue to be a vital resource for help.

The seeds you are planting within your Unit will reap a harvest. It may not be instantly, but it will happen.

I encourage each of you to reach out and encourage someone else just where you are. The potential for more people to become involved in our organization begin with you.

Your attitude and demeanor, to serve and give to others, will do more for you your Unit and the organization than you know.

We are so thankful for your time and each effort put forth on behalf of our veterans.

You are not just "talking about" leadership; you are putting it in action. The end results will be known when those reports are presented at the end of the year.

We have shaken off the "ghoulishness" that seem to have kept us back. Let us now move forward with "thankfulness" of the mission before us.

As we approach Christmas Season, let us now move forward with "joy and gladness" in our heart of the mission before us.

Ladies, I would like to remind you of two important items:

- Mid-year information from your Unit / District as to what you are doing to enhance leadership, by December 10th
- Yearbook, by February 15, 2015 (guideline on Department web-site)

Thanks for all you do . . . God and Country!



2nd Vice President/Membership

By Miriam Stein, Department 2nd Vice President

Well, I can't believe 2014 will soon be ended. If you haven't paid your 2015 dues they will be due by Dec. 31st. I am sure that everyone wants their Unit to reach goal this year. I know that everyone is having tough times but we are here for our veterans. I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year. Until next year be safe...

For God and Country!



Historian

By Anita Owens, Department Historian

Hasn't this year just flown by and think about all that has taken place. Hope you have recorded it so that you don't forget anything that happens. It is good to look back and remember all the fun you have had taking care of our veterans and carrying out all the good work that is done in our Auxiliary.

I am wishing you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. If you have not mailed in your mid-year History report, please email or send it today (needed by December 15th) so that I can report all that you have done.

Remember during the holidays it is very important that we remember our veterans both active and inactive and their families.

For God and Country



Chaplain

By Jane Lawrence, Department Chaplain

Let me be one of the first to wish you and yours a MERRY CHRISTMAS. Following what seems to me a deeply unfortunate trend; "HAPPY HOLIDAYS" is replacing the traditional Christmas greeting. Let those of us in the American Legion family who celebrate Christmas rejoice in the birth of our Lord, while recognizing and respecting the views of others.

Yes, the Holiday Season has arrived and with that brings shopping, decorating and gathering with family and friends. However, don't forget to add making your mid-year reports as part of your "to do list".

So far, we have only had a couple of sickness and one death during this month. Please keep these families in your prayers. Also, please send me notices of Auxiliary members or their family members who may be ill or need a prayer, a get well or sympathy card.

Please continue to send me prayers for President Gabriele's prayer book.

We pray for our Troops continued safety and protection. We pray that you would comfort them and their families through their separation during this Christmas season and we pray Lord you will give them a MERRY CHRISTMAS.

For God and Country



MEMBERSHIP

In this season of giving thanks, we express our gratitude for our veterans, troops, and their families for their sacrifices to ensure our freedom.

Our American Legion Auxiliary membership is a year-round expression of our personal gratitude. Your membership dues support those who defend us, and help fortify our mission and heritage of service for those serving our country now and those who will need us tomorrow.

“On behalf of the thousands of fellow American Legion Auxiliary members, advocates and supporters, I want to thank you for your membership in our organization,” said Janet Jefford, 2014-2015 ALA national president. “Wonderful and worthwhile programs such as the ALA-sponsored National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, Children of Warriors National Presidents’ Scholarship, Veterans in the Classroom, legislative advocacy and so much more happen because you belong to the greatest women’s patriotic service organization in the world.”

As we approach our centennial in 2019-2020, we are thankful for our Auxiliary members and our accomplishments, but there is still important work we must do for our veterans, the military and their families.

Please share the joys of American Legion Auxiliary membership with a friend, neighbor, family member – anyone you know who might be [eligible for membership](#). Help us continue our legacy of Service Not Self for the next generation.

The National Membership Committee is so excited about this year’s membership campaign and we are just as excited about all the membership chairmen throughout the country who are starting out like gangbusters!

Many members believe they need to wait for the National membership renewal notice to pay their dues. While that is convenient, you don’t have to wait. Members may contact their local Unit President or membership chairman in person or send their dues in the mail — no renewal notice required.

Renewal notices are a great tool; however, that personal touch is extremely important to retain our members. One cost-effective way that can be used to send out a mass message to your members is a service called “Phonevite.com.” This service can be set up for a minimal cost, or sometimes for free, to send friendly reminders to each one of your members. Check it out! What a great tool!

This year, all new members will receive a postcard from National President Janet welcoming them to our organization — a great way of sending out a big hug to the new member. Make sure someone in the Unit is ready to do their best to connect with the new member, remind her of the meeting dates and any upcoming community and/or veteran projects. It is important to keep communication open, exchange phone numbers, email addresses, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and any other means to stay in touch with members.

We can make it to One Million Members; it’s going to take all of us to stay committed to our goal while we make the American Legion Auxiliary the desired organization to volunteer by serving veterans, their families and communities with open arms and a positive attitude!

Unit Activity Books are in. They may be purchased for \$3.00 each plus postage if mailed. See webpage for mailing price list **Under Order Forms**



May the Love of Family and the laughter of friends fill your hearts and home during the Holidays and throughout the New Year.

Merry Christmas from the Officers and Staff of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Georgia.

Department President

Gabrielle Barnett

1st Vice President

Rosa Scott

Chaplain

Jane Lawrence

2nd Vice President

Miriam Stein

Secretary/Treasurer

Patty Hawkins

Historian

Anitia Owens

Membership Clerk

Krista Massengale

NEC

Betty Grist

Finance Chairman

Gail Ramey

Happy New Year 2015

**President's Theme:**

"Georgia's Eagles taking care of All Veterans. All for one and one for all"

Membership Theme:

"Georgia's Eagles Soaring to New Heights"

**Calendar of Upcoming Events
2014**

December 7th Pearl Harbor Day
 December 16th Hanukkah (begins @ sundown)
 December 21st Winter Begins
 December 25th Christmas (office closed 24,25 &26th)
 December 26th Kwanzaa (begins)
 December 31st New Year's Eve (office closed)

2015

January 1st New Year's Day (office closed)
 February 27th-March 1st National President Visit
 (more info to follow)
 March 27 - 29, 2015 Spring Conference/College -
 Marietta
 June 14 - 19, 2015 Girls State, GSU, Statesboro
 June 25 - 28, 2015, Department Convention Dalton,
 GA
 Aug 28 - Sept 3, 2015 97th National Convention
 Baltimore, MD
 Oct 24-25, 2015 Fall Conference Duluth, GA



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