

DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA AUXILIARY NEWS

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A Word from the President

By Gabriele Barnett, Department

Thank you ladies for a successful Spring Conference. I appreciate everyone’s support in the silent auction, purchasing tickets for the Liquor Basket, buying tickets for the 50/50, the Past Presidents’ Parley fundraiser, and purchasing T-shirts and pins. I am happy to announce that all the T-shirts are sold. We still have pins available which are reduced to \$ 1.00 each.

The Ninth District presented a beautiful poppy anchor, which will be launched in Tybee Island, the morning of May 25, 2015 at 10:00 am. Let me or Patty know if you are planning to attend the ceremony. The boat holds 49 people. Lunch will be hosted at Post/Unit 184 Thunderbolt afterwards. A grateful thank you to the Ninth District and special thanks to Wanda Kindrick for organizing the event.

May is election month. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage members to step up to the plate and run for an office they are interested in. Unit Officers, have you been mentoring members and encouraged them to run for office? The mission of a good leader is to develop and prepare knowledgeable and capable leaders to carry on the growth and success of the Auxiliary. Preparing future leaders for the organization is a vital concern of the American Legion Auxiliary. Following are only a few ways to lead and mentor members in our organization:

- Hold a workshop on how to prepare reports
- Hold a workshop on how to be a chairman and/or organize a project
- Let a member be “unit president” for a meeting
- Explain to members why we do the things we do (tradition, history)
- Develop a plan to use tools and resources monthly or quarterly at meetings

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Inserts: Membership Report, Unit Officers form, Dept. Convention Credential form, 2016 Dues Rate Change & Unit Data form. Dept Convention Housing form & National Convention form.

- Survey members to identify leadership skills

And let us not forget about our Juniors – a great part of the future of our organization. If your Unit feels they do not have enough Juniors participating, team up with another Unit and hold meetings together (maybe rotate the location). Our Juniors throughout the State have been involved in many programs and have done fantastic work taking care of our Veterans. I hope many of our Juniors will attend the Junior Convention, the last weekend in May (more info to follow).

At the Spring Conference, someone turned in drinking tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. In one of the bags there was a key. Please let me know if you have a key missing and I will mail it to you.

Thank you Georgia Eagles for everything you do for our Veterans. Remember,

Georgia’s Eagles taking care of all veterans, all for one and one for all.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY,

“Georgia’s Eagles taking care of All Veterans. All for one and one for all”

Secretary

By Patty Hawkins, Department Secretary

The Spring Conference/Auxiliary College is over. We had a great many members attend. Annual Report packets were handed out to District Presidents. Unit Presidents make sure to get yours. It is very important that The Unit Annual reports get sent to the District Presidents and then she forwards them to the Department. It shows all the work and dedication we do in Honor of our Veterans and their families. Let's be Proud of Georgia's Auxiliary members service and support.

Many thanks to all who donated to the Silent Auction and made bids, purchased tickets Liquor Basket, bought T-shirts and pins. ☺

Time to get ready for the Department Convention and the National Convention. Forms for hotels are on the website as well as in the newsletter. Don't wait until the last day to get your rooms, as they sometimes get filled up real quick.

Delinquent Notices went out April 13th! They were mailed to the Unit Presidents. We will NOT be collecting any monies at the Department Convention in Dalton for Obligations. They must be paid and into the department 15 days prior to Convention. This is very important, our Convention will be here before you know it and in order to vote the Obligation must be paid. **Remember we voted NOT TO ACCEPT any payments for Obligations at the Convention.** If you are planning on coming to the Department Convention and are not sure if your Unit's Obligations have been paid check with your Unit President or Treasurer.

Our Membership goal is at 77.90%. Ladies we are not that far away from 100%, so let's see that extra effort I know you are willing to help get us there. We do really need to concentrate on our juniors. Bring them in and let them help us build up our units. You might be surprised what our youth are capable of and their willingness to help if only asked.

1st Vice President / Leadership

By Rosa Scott, Department 1st Vice President

When you heard the phrases "How do . . . , Can you show me Or "Tell me . . ." in any portion of a sentence it may put you on the threshold of a "teachable moment."

When a teachable moment presents itself, you may find yourself in the role of advisor, role model, teacher or leader. The phrases mentioned can represent a new opportunity for sharing ideals, mentoring or encouragement one to another. When others are seeking our opinion or expertise on a matter, it is often because they feel comfortable with you and hope that you can and will advise them wisely.

In our organization a procedure maybe repeated over and over again without giving it a second thought. When nothing is said about the procedure it can become a habit. Then a matter may arise that draws our attention to the fact that there is correction needed regarding a given procedure or policy. It is at these times, that we may have what I believe to be "teachable moment".

As our organization moves forward, I believe there will be more and more "teachable moments". There will be more reviewing of detail information on files. Continued review and even procedure revision comes with growth, continuous building of our organization and the developing of our leaders in various positions.

We cannot rely on our memory to carry out all the many changes our organization has made over the years. Documentation is vital to the very foundation of our organization and reviewing of this information is also important.

As a member you play a vital role. It becomes the responsibility of every member to help in maintaining the development of these procedures. No one person can do this alone.

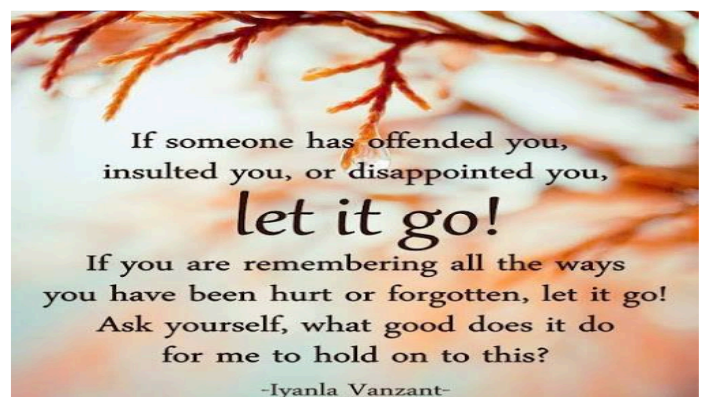
We all have an opinion and by only reading and understanding what we now have in place can we open the dialogue for discussion. It is also important to know how and when to make imitate changes.

Now, you become an active participant in developing your organization from within. You are taking ownership, and making an investment which demonstrates your concern about our organization. This may seem like a simple task, but it can make a profound difference.

That is leadership in its purest form.

A simple phrase can be the beginning of growth, encouragement and the great leadership. With our continued effort we will assure that our organization is moving in the direction of our vision.

Thanks for being a positive part of our growth, and continue to take advantage of every "teachable moment"



2nd Vice President/Membership

By Miriam Stein, Department 2nd Vice President

I am so proud that we are finally getting more goal units. I know everyone is really trying but we need to GET a good push on this membership. I know there are more Juniors that we could sign up. I know our EAGLES are trying hard but just a little extra push would help us. Keep trying we will make it. Please keep sending those Renewal, Rejoin and New Membership in. Each member new or old is very important to us. Let's Soar to the Top!!

We want to be the choice organization for all those potential members out there and we need to continue to show our communities the 5 "W"s:

Who we are -the American Legion Auxiliary

What we do -volunteer

When we meet -dates and times of meetings and events

Where we are -location of unit

Why we do what we do -for the love of our veterans
IT CAN BE DONE! & WE CAN DO IT!

Historian

By Anita Owens, Department Historian

March 26-28th, 2015 we attended our Spring Conference and Legion College. We had great attendance at our Legion College which lets me know that we have members who are anxious to learn and to do it right for our veterans. A lot of history was made and I hope it will be recorded in your History Books.

I know many of you are now furiously working on getting your reports done and finishing up your History Book, please do not hesitate to call upon me if you need additional guidance, my email is Anitia@bellsouth.net or call me at 770-846-4454. At the Legion College I asked if you would please email me a copy of your history book so that I can read it and get some notable actions that you have taken this year for your Auxiliary Unit. I would like to include them in the Department History Book. This Department Book is not just about the history of the President, it is about what "we" this State has done for our veterans, community, children and youth and education this year. I do not get your official book as that is submitted to your District who will judge and send me the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place books for judging by the State. So be sure and DO NOT send me your binder History Book.

I can't wait to see what all has been happening out there this year and look forward to reading your books.

For God and Country

Chaplain

By Jane Lawrence, Department Chaplain

I hope everyone had a happy, healthy and Blessed Easter.

We had a great Poppy Anchor Dedication program at Spring Conference. The Poppy Anchor was beautiful.

The Auxiliary Legion College was very informative.

It is getting that time of year for our Chaplain Reports and Prayer Books. If you do not have the instructions for the Chaplains Report and Prayer Book it is on the Auxiliary web page. I have received a few prayers to be included in the Book of Prayers and I certainly would like to receive prayers, scripture or poems from each unit to be included in Gabriele's book. Also, am looking for a lot of reports and Prayer Books.

Please keep the service men and women who are protecting us, and their families, in your prayers

For God and Country

"Thank you" to all who have contributed to our efforts to raise funds for Department with our Basket of Cheer.

Special thank you to Unit 168, Hinesville, who generously donated the basket back to be raffled again at Spring Conference.

Congratulations to Sheila Tinsley, Unit 192, Evans, who won the basket at the Conference.

We raised additional \$505 for Department General Funds making a grand total of \$1830.00.

Thank you again for all your contributions. We will not have a fund raiser for Department at the Department Convention.

Judy Thompson and Kris Ann Alexander

NOTE from our Dept. President:

I have set up an online fundraiser with Yankee candles for "our" special project. Is this something you can send out to your members to support? We will receive 40% of the proceeds. The Auxiliary is sending out an e-mail blast to its members.

To all of our supporters: We are offering an "ONLINE FUNDRAISER" at yankeecandlefundraising.com for this 2015 Spring Season!

Our Group Number: 990075598

SHOP FOR YOURSELF * INVITE FRIENDS & FAMILY * TELL EVERYONE!

Shop online and send beautiful gifts for Valentine's, Easter, Mother's Day, Graduations, Teacher Gifts and Wedding's.

Online orders over \$100 will receive "FREE" shipping,

Online Orders under \$100 is a \$5.99 Flat Fee.

Benefits of our Yankee Candle Fundraising Program:

- Yankee IS America's Best Loved Candle
- 40% Profit comes to our organization on ALL items purchased
- Shopping is available all the way through July 15, 2015
- You can register as a Seller's Login to track your own sales
- All orders are shipped directly to consumer!

So, please, support our organization by offering these highest-quality, brand-name, products, which everyone loves, to friends and family alike! You can even share this on Facebook and/or tweet it by using our Group # 990075598.

How to Recognize an American Legion Auxiliary Member

Say tell me have you seen her...that Auxiliary volunteer?
 She was in the hospital yesterday, spreading hope and cheer.
 Last week she was at a local school, thanking all the teachers,
 And at a Legion baseball game, cheering from the bleachers.
 She wears a veteran-made Poppy next to her Auxiliary pin,
 And has a kind word ready with a warm and welcoming grin.
 When she sees Old Glory, her hand crosses over her heart.
 She loves God and her country, and she's made "giving" an art.
 For Auxiliary means "Service Not Self," that's how it's supposed to be.
 We honor all who serve and have served to keep our country free.
 We strongly embrace traditions, and try to do what's right,
 To help in our communities and make right the Master of might.
 All our Auxiliary programs are much too vast to mention,
 But if you let her know that you've got a "good intention"....
 She'll invite you to a meeting and then first-hand you'll see
 The richness of the blessing being an Auxiliary member can be.
 We're mothers, wives and daughters, sisters and granddaughters too
 And women veterans in their own right that have served our country, who
 Know that "Freedom Isn't Free"...it comes at a very high price,
 And giving back is what we do to honor the sacrifice.
 It is our prayer that someday all the wars will cease,
 And the whole world will enjoy everlasting peace.
 Until that day comes forth, our service will not end.



American Legion Au

"For God and Country" we shall serve, faithfully...Amen.

MEMBERSHIP IMPORTANT FORMS TO BE FILLED OUT AND RETURNED TO DEPARTMENT ASAP!!!!

It's that time of year again.... When the office is on overload with paperwork and you feel like we are Hounding you to death for information. I know it gets frustrating and you think you are the only Unit we are picking on. I promise you, we are after everyone. National sets our deadlines that we have to meet for them and they DO NOT allow us any leeway, if we do not receive your forms and your information then we have no choice but to leave your Unit blank. I know to some this gets very frustrating, but that is why we start sending out these forms in February and March and we keep sending them up until the deadline. Once you have returned the forms and they are correct, there is no need to keep sending them, one time for the New Year is sufficient unless there is a change before the deadline.

Forms you will find enclosed:

UNIT OFFICERS FOR 2015-2016 - We need to receive this form ASAP. As soon as your elections are completed please fill out this form and return immediately. This form must be received into the office No later than 15 days prior to Department Convention. If you do not return this form your Unit will be in jeopardy of not receiving your ballots at the Convention, as well as not receiving Membership Card Packets. All Unit Officers must be certified at the Department prior to the Department Convention.

CREDENTIALS SHEET FOR 2015 DEPT CONVENTION - This sheet must be filled out and returned no later than May 31, 2015. This form is used to certify your Delegates and Alternates to the Department Convention and all entries must be verified at Dept to make sure they are in good standing. You cannot list more Delegates on the sheet than your Unit is allowed as votes, so please pay attention to how the amount of votes are calculated. Please mail 1 copy to the Dept and keep 1 copy to present at the Credentials Desk at Convention to certify and receive your ribbons. Both copies must match and cannot differ in the names of Delegates or Alternates. Because any new names added after the sheet was sent to Dept would not have been verified. **Also remember that all obligations must be received into the Dept 15 days prior to the Convention for the Unit to be to Vote. NO Monies will be accepted at the Department Convention by anyone including the Credentials Desk for obligations. If they are not received into the office 15 days prior to the Convention, your Unit will not be in good standing and will not be allowed to vote and will not receive Delegate or Alternate badges as they will not be Certified.**

2016 DUES RATE CHANGE FORM - This sheet must be **received before May 1, 2015**. National requires that all Dues Rates must be verified and listed correctly into our Database prior to the Department receiving their next year's Membership Cards. Even if your dues are not changing from the previous year we must receive this form and it must be on file at the Department for the Membership Year. Once this deadline has been reached NO Changes can be made and your dues rate will be locked for the year. This is the amount that will be sent out on your renewal notices to your members.

2016 UNIT DATA FORM - This form must **received** in order for the person who is in charge of receiving the membership for the New Membership year will be listed correctly on your renewal notices. It also gives the Department the information of who is working your membership so that if we have any questions or issues we are able to contact them directly to resolve everything. **I am able to give an extension on this form and allow until June 1, 2015 to have it returned. Please understand that it must be received on or Before June 1, 2015. If I DO Not receive this form prior to June 1,** I cannot guarantee that any information on the sheet will be changed. Please return this form even if the same person from the previous year is still handling the membership. A New Form must be on file for each New Year.

UNIT OFFICERS FORM 2015-2016 & A 2016 UNIT DATA FORM must BOTH be **Received** at the Department Office by the Dates listed as their deadline, in order to receive your 2016 Membership Packets at the Department Convention. The only person's that the 2016 Packets will be released to is the New President for the 2015-2016 year or Person who is listed on the 2016 Unit Data Form. The cards WILL NOT be released to Anyone Else, Under Any Circumstances. The Cards will be signed for and the person signing must be 1 of the 2 names listed as stated above. A Place and Time will be designated at the Convention for the pick-up of Cards. They will not be given out at any other times only what is stated at the Convention.

Thanks, Krista

**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 2015

April 1, 2015	April Fool's day
April 3, 2015	Good Friday
April 5, 2015	Easter
June 14 - 19, 2015	Girls State, GSU, Statesboro
June 25 - 28, 2015,	Department Convention Dalton, GA
Aug 28 - Sept 3, 2015	97 th National Convention Baltimore, MD
Oct 24-25, 2015	Fall Conference Duluth, GA

Membership Theme:

"Georgia's Eagles Soaring to New Heights"



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