

DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA AUXILIARY NEWS

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A Word from the President

By Rosa Scott, Department President

As we go about our everyday lives, let us take a moment to reflect. Our world is ever changing and with it comes some uncertainties. There are days that are marked on our calendars once a year and they bring with them a level of expectation. During the holidays, we reflect on favorite moments and in some cases memories that may make the holidays a little difficult. Nevertheless, the holiday season is a great time to be the bearer of encouraging words and simple acts of random kindness.

For some of our military men and women, the holidays may be represented on the calendar, but the expectations have changed. The courage of our military forces (men and women) who without a doubt, continue to serve our country, watch the calendar and count down the days to the holidays, but may not be home during these time. For some of our military service men and women, their lives have been forever changed due to a tragic loss of a friend or family member, and sometimes both.

So, as a reminder, let us continue to lift up these families. Whether home or abroad, our military forces need and deserve our continued words of motivation and encouragement. They sacrifice for our freedom. Let us, as an organization, offer our continued love and support.

We will not forget" . . .

For God and Country



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*Christmas is forever, not for just one day,
for loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away
like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf.
The good you do for others is good you do yourself.*

*Peace on Earth, good will to men,
kind thoughts and words of cheer,
are things we should use often
and not just once a year.*

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

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 Gift 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 to 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 that to be a member in good standing your 2016 Dues must be paid by December 31, 2015.

Renewal notices will be sent out again in January, so we are hoping to see an increase in membership renewals. Are you working your membership and trying to attract new members? How about an old member that hasn't renewed? Some people just need a phone call to remind them of the importance of what we do for our veterans and families to renew. We all are in this together and membership is our survival. We have lost a lot of members but we can work to get them back as well as new ones. Let's start bursting open the Forget Me Nots!!! We can do this.

Great Gift Idea!! Pay someone's 2016 membership

*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 Miriam Stein, Department 1st Vice President

Boy Oh Boy!! What a great Christmas Gift Shop was had in Augusta/Uptown VA. Thanks to all the Units who donated time and Gifts. A Proud Moment in Georgia. We had over \$20,000 in gifts, wrapped 1876 gifts, 38 rehab patients wrapped their own gifts. This is the 1st time it was ever done and they had a wonderful time doing it. It made them feel very proud to do this. We served 476 veterans with stocking stuffers.

We will have more leadership workshops after the holidays. As we still have much work to do.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Stay safe and see you in 2016

For God and Country,

Miriam Stein
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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

"WE MADE THE VETERAN'S DAY GOAL OF 45%!!!!!! I am so impressed with the job each of you have been doing in getting your memberships into Krista and of Krista for getting all of this entered into the database so that National sees we are working hard to meet the goals they have set for us.

Our next milestone will be December 7th, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day to reach 60%. As of November 17th, we are sitting at 49.66%. That leave us with a little over 10% that we need to get into Department and entered into the database before the 7th. Can we do it? I think we can. I have talked to a number of District Presidents and they are working hard at getting the zeros cleared from their report. Keep up the good work.

I know I am behind on sending out Promise Certificates but I will get them out to you in December. I have had personal hardship the past few weeks and it has put me behind in this endeavor. Please bear with me and you will get it soon to share with your members.

Post 20 in the Athens Georgia area is trying to start up a new Auxiliary Unit and ask that we let you know so that if you have friends or family in this area they may wish to join this new Unit. Let's put out the work and try to get this new Unit up and moving. If you have any questions, please call me and I will put you into touch with the persons leading this endeavor. Good Luck to Post 20.

I will leave you with a wish for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Hope to see you when I visit some of the Districts during December, January and February.

God Bless,

Anitia



Historian

By Jane Lawrence, Department Historian

This year has gone so fast, I hope you have recorded all the things your unit has accomplished this year. It is good to look back and remember all the fun and hard work you have had taking care of our veterans, their families, your community and carrying out all the good work that is done in our Auxiliary.

If you have not mailed in your mid-year report, please e-mail or send it ASAP, I need them by December 15th. so that I can report all the things you have done this year.

I know during the holidays you are very busy, but it is very important that we remember our veterans, active and inactive, and their families at home and overseas.

I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

For God and Country

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%

Chaplain

By Valerie Brown-Debro, Department Chaplain



Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day On Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, the Imperial Japanese Navy attacked the American Army and Navy base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. More than 2000 American citizens were killed and more than 1000 were injured. **Wreaths across America Day**. Honoring those who sacrificed so much to protect our freedoms.

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR GODLY SUCCESS:

JOIN THE BATTLE- God is not looking for perfect prayer warriors; just willing hearts who want to see His will come to pass on the earth. All you have to do is turn to the Lord in prayer: **Father, I come into Your presence** and ask You to give me the heart of the intercessor. Help me to be persistent in prayer until the breakthrough comes. Thank You for this powerful weapon of spiritual warfare -- and for Your faithfulness in my life. In Jesus' name. Amen."

PLAN FOR BATTLE- So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most. All you have to do is ask. (Luke 11:10) says; For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

ARMED FOR BATTLE: JUST LIKE SOLDIERS WHO ARE PREPARING FOR BATTLE, WE CANNOT TAKE ON THE ENEMY IF WE LEAVE OUR WEAPONS BEHIND. THAT IS WHY WE MUST GO INTO "BATTLE" ARMED FOR SPIRITUAL CONFLICT INTERCESSION IS PRAYER THAT PLEADS WITH GOD FOR YOUR NEEDS AND THE NEEDS OF OTHERS. INTERCESSION INVOLVES TAKING HOLD OF GOD'S WILL AND REFUSING TO LET GO UNTIL HIS WILL COMES TO PASS...

PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD So that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. (Read Ephesians 6:10-17)

Let us pray: Father God as we come together in agreement, interceding on behalf of those who are in need of your healing power; we pray for deliverance in their lives. As we go through the Holiday Season, Thank you for your Dear Son... We ask that you Bless our Military Family, Friends, and communities forever keeping them in your arms.

In Jesus Name, we pray Amen!



John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

Eighth District is in need of any poppies you may have to use for the Poppy Anchor. If you have any and would like to give them to Eighth District please contact Jo Mason, Poppy Anchor Construction Chairman



Bulletin #1**VA & R Chairman, Susie Mash**

Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and friends. This is the time of year for giving. I know this year you have been working the American Legion Auxiliary Mission to enhance the lives of our veterans, Military and their families.

Unit VA&R Chairman and Presidents, I need to know all the great things you have done to assist our veterans and their families. PLEASE send me a Narrative by December 15th. I will have to send in my VA&R report to the National Chairman by Jan. 1st. Same as the end of the year, I need to know the # of Volunteers, Total hours, Expenses and # of Veterans you served. Please review last years report form. Since this is the Auxiliary Mission I should be getting a report from each unit. Take time to talk about it in your next unit meeting, the meals you cooked, and the donations you have made to help our veterans. Care Packages, donations for the Gift Shops, or any other donations made to the VAVS, comfort items? What did you do on 4th of July, Veterans Day and Memorial Day? Did you put flags on the Veterans graves? Did you volunteer at the VAVS Health Centers, maybe held Bingo or Pizza parties? What about our Homeless Veterans with the Buddy Baskets? Have you sent donations to the Veterans Creative Arts Festival, what about the Department Commander, President and SAL special project, the VA Hospitals? Did you participate in a Stand down or donate items? I could go on with more that I know you have done for our Veterans. Now it's your time to send all those great things that you have done to me so I can report to National how great Georgia is working our Auxiliary Mission. Please add pictures of your events with your narrative. If you need any assistance, please let me know, I will be glad to help.

January ALA Mission Training sessions –**Let's Go!**

While your Juniors are busy learning songs and playing Americanism games, why not spend your time also getting pumped up on the Auxiliary mission? Learn about ALA programs, meet new Auxiliary friends, get to meet with some national leaders – all while having a great time!

Mission Training is a one-day session that will inspire you to serve our veterans more and be a more effective force of change in your community. You don't need to live in the division where the meeting is held, so make your plans now to join us in warm Atlanta or Las Vegas in January!

Atlanta – Jan. 9, 2016

Las Vegas – Jan. 23, 2016

**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.



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

Rosa J. Scott

1st Vice President
Miriam Stein

Chaplain
Valerie Brown-Debro

2nd Vice President
Anitia Owens

Secretary/Treasurer
Patty Hawkins

Historian
Jane Lawrence

Membership Clerk
Krista Massengale

NEC
Gabrielle Barnett

Finance Chairman
Deana Rowe

Happy New Year 2016

American Legion Auxiliary 2019-20 Centennial Strategic Plan

Here's the **October 30, 2015** update about what's happening to achieve the 5 Goals!

To 2015-2016 ALA leadership - Welcome! Each month the Strategic Planning Team sends out a Centennial Strategic Plan leadership update. We include accomplishments and any note-worthy movement strategy teams accomplish and how it affects the overall plan.

In 2014, the American Legion Auxiliary National Executive Committee adopted the vision for what the American Legion Auxiliary needs to look like by our 100th anniversary to remain the world's largest patriotic women's service organization advocating for veterans. To realize this vision, we must achieve the 5 goals of the 2019-20 Centennial Strategic Plan adopted by the NEC.

Vision: By 2019-20, the American Legion Auxiliary's million members will be making a difference for veterans and their families in every neighborhood.

Goal 5: With The American Legion Build Brand Loyalty

Goal 4: Strengthen Departments and Units

Goal 3: Develop Leadership at All Levels

Goal 2: Create an Internal Culture of Goodwill ... and if we achieve these 4, we can achieve

Goal 1: Attain a million members (and over 6 million are eligible to join the ALA!)

Support of the Centennial Strategic Plan and for resourcing the Plan was resoundingly supported by the 2014 and 2015 National Convention as well as the NEC. Some 200 initiatives are in the works to implement the nearly 30 strategies supporting the 5 main goals. Leading the efforts to implement the initiatives are some 135 ALA members serving as Strategy captains and team members, Goal champions, and Implementation Team members, meeting via email and conference calls, and representing all levels of the organization.

A lot is going on to build the capacity of the ALA to be able to deliver our mission and become the great 2020 vision of making a difference for veterans and their families in every neighborhood. These 5 goals are our top priority. Read on, and be part of it all!

Goal 5: With The American Legion Build Brand Loyalty

- 5-C: Our new #ALARockStars Facebook page has launched! Please go like it: <https://www.facebook.com/ALARockStars?ref=hl>. There is also a newly designed header graphic for the #ALARockStars on the Facebook page! 5-C team members are also working on a Junior Activities Department Chairmen handbook. Stay tuned for details!
- 5-E: This team has been working on promoting the use of #ALARockStars across all ALA media and there have been more than 500 posts using #ALARockStars by members across social media platforms. Additionally, this team collaborated with the NHQ Communications staff and created a brochure highlighting resources available on the national website. This will be promoted during the National President's Department visits.

Goal 4: Strengthen Departments and Units

- 4-D: Since the last Monthly Leadership Update, two Departments have collected their monetary award for the Department Achievement Award. Once your department has come up with their own 5-Year Strategic Plan or adopted the national plan and has started implementing the plan, your Department is eligible for monetary awards up to \$1,000 per year. The ALA Centennial Strategic Plan Department Achievement Award application and instructions can be found here: www.alaforveterans.org/awards/

Goal 3: Develop Leadership at All Levels

- 3-A: Based on the race/ethnicity data from those who participated in the assessment, this team is working on how to remove barriers for considering and selecting leadership.
- 3-B: This team is compiling position-specific Roles and Responsibilities documents for national officers. They are also working to expand national leadership roles for junior members using the new national division junior meetings.
- 3-C: In an effort to better understand national leadership expectations, this team is researching expectations published by similar membership organizations such as Rotary, Kiwanis, and VFW.
- 3-D: This team is putting the final touches on the rollout of the ALA Innovative Leadership video challenge. A bulletin will be going out shortly with details, and documents will be posted on the ALA Leadership Committee page of the national website. 3-D has prepared a bulletin calling for nominations from departments who have found innovative ways to identify and select new leaders. Those nominees will be recognized by the National President on Facebook and Twitter. This team is also collaborating with 1-C to discuss where their member Data Survey Form overlaps with the proposed 1-C Online Interest For

Goal 2: Create an Internal Culture of Goodwill

- 2-E: The strategy captains collaborated with the communications staff at National Headquarters to edit and brand three documents that will be available on the website in the coming weeks. This team had a meeting on Monday, October 26th and is currently working on developing an initiative that will spark cultural change based on the recommendations from JGA in the Organizational Assessment.
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- 2-F: Collaborated with 2-A to combine the Goodwill Ambassador Nomination form and self-assessment documents into one. This team will be meeting Thursday, November 5 to discuss the recommendations from the Assessment and how they can incorporate them into their initiatives.

Goal 1: Attain a Million Members

- Team members are updating the 2010 list of military installations as an initial step in creating alliances with military installations.
- Tracking renewal rates of female veterans who were new members in 2015 and whose national portion of dues (and in some cases department and unit portions of dues) were waived. As of October 19th, their renewal rate was 15%. The goal is 25% for the 2016 membership year or by December 31st, 2016.
- The content for the online interest form has been completed and the prototype is in development.
- As of October 26th, nearly 5,000 members have paid their dues using the online renewal option.
- The redesign of the New Member Welcome Kit is complete and Goal 1 team members are collaborating with Goal 2 on content.
- Team members are creating tools for (U.S.) President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) to members with high levels of volunteer service hours.
- In an effort to contact past Girls State participants for recruiting, Goal 1 is reaching out to Girls State directors to craft a message and get contact information.

- Working on logistics, topics, moderators, timing, and promotional messaging for National President virtual “Coffee Talks” with unit members.

Just a couple of Centennial Strategic Plan reminders as you all continue your great efforts:

1. Make sure to copy StrategicPlan@ALAforVeterans.org on meeting requests, meeting notes, etc.
2. Be sure to send your specific questions about work plans, the overall plan, or similar inquiries to StrategicPlan@ALAforVeterans.org so that we have centralized tracking of all of the components and action going on with the Strategic Plan.

Yes...it's a really big undertaking, and vital if we are going to be here for another generation of veterans. Remember, achieving Goals 5, 4, 3, and 2 will make it possible to get to Goal 1 – Attain a Million Members. We can do this if we work together. Let's all be Goal 2 stewards and keep up the good work!

Centennial Strategic Plan DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA PLAN 2014-2019

GOAL 1	GOAL 2	GOAL 3	GOAL 4
ATTAIN NEW MEMBERS	CREATE AN INTERNAL CULTURE OF GOODWILL	DEVELOP LEADERSHIP	STRENGTHEN LEADERSHIP AT ALL LEVELS
STRATEGIES	STRATEGIES	STRATEGIES	STRATEGIES
A. Target and partner with community	A. Lead by example-don't ask a member to do something you are not willing to do yourself	A. Encourage/educate members	A. Invest in training at all levels
B. More visibility in community	B. Be open minded, try new ideas	B. Define Leadership	B. Motivate people to attend leadership courses
C. Sponsor events	C. Empower members, appreciate members, educate members	C. Build capacity (Invest resources in identifying and developing leadership, mentor new people, stop recycling the same people)	C. Train Districts so they can train Units
D. Offer basic auxiliary class	D. Expand and develop a support system between the Legion and the Auxiliary	D. Reward innovative leadership recruitment and development practices.	Support Districts and Units in the development of their strategic plan
E. If close to a military installation, participate in a retiree appreciation day	E. Create actionable and relevant reward system for positive behavior (local volunteer appreciation luncheon, enter individuals in a drawing)	E. Public recognition	
F. Promote the Junior program	F. Inspire - invest in your resources	F. Use resources correctly, don't force people into positions not aligned with their talent..	
G. Establish a buddy system - bring a friend			
H. Expand visibility			



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

- December 7th Pearl Harbor Day
- December 7th Hanukkah (begins @ sundown)
- December 22nd Winter Begins
- December 25th Christmas (office closed 24,25 &26th)
- December 26th Kwanzaa (begins)
- December 31st New Year's Eve
(office closed until January 4th 2016)

2016

- January 9, 2016 Mission Training /Division Jr. Meeting Atlanta
- February 21-24, 2016 Washington DC Conference
- March 17 - 20, 2016 Spring Conference/College - Duluth
- June 12-17, 2016 Girls State, GSU, Statesboro
- June 23 - 25, 2016 Department Convention Duluth, GA
- Aug 26 - Sept1, 2016 98th National Convention Cincinnati, Ohio



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