

DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA AUXILIARY NEWS

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A Word from the President

By Gabriele Barnett, Department

Another month has gone by and I know the Georgia Eagles are soaring high taking care of our Veterans. Our Spring Conference is coming up next month. We will have another silent auction to raise funds for the office. It was a great success last time so please bring an item or two to be auctioned off. At the Spring Conference we will offer the opportunity again to attend the Legion College with a breakout session for Auxiliary specific topics. I hope we will have great participation. I am honored to announce that the National President is coming to visit Georgia. She will arrive in Augusta late on 27 February 2015. On Saturday, 28 February 2015 we will take her to the Uptown VA for a tour, followed by lunch at Post 178. Afterwards we will visit the Blue Goose followed by dinner at Post 192. On Sunday, 1 March 2015 the National President will visit the Fisher House in Fort Gordon, followed by lunch in the Dining Facility in Fort Gordon to allow her to talk to active duty personnel. Afterwards we will visit the Augusta National Museum, followed by dinner at Post 205. Please let the Posts know if you are planning on attending the lunch/dinner. This will allow them to plan the lunch/dinner accordingly. Our Honorary Junior Department President, Hope Boskey, will also be on the tour with the National President. Let's come out and show our National President some of the great Southern hospitality.

Last month I received the resignation of Jennifer Evans, committee person on the Finance Committee. She resigned due to conflict with her work schedule. Jennifer's position was filled by Valerie Debro.

The online fundraiser with Yankee Candle is set up.

Patty will send out a separate e-mail blast with instructions on how to order. The proceeds will go to my special project – the VA hospitals. We will receive 40% of the sales (excluding shipping). Please share the link with friends and relatives. Keep in mind that the Department has only raised about 20% of their goal needed to support the VA hospitals and clinics throughout Georgia.

Please encourage your Junior members to attend Spring Conference. The committee has a lot of activities planned. Remember, the Juniors are our future.

I hope to see many of you in Augusta and at the Spring Conference.

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

Now that all the holidays are gone, it's time to get down to new business.

Our Spring Conference is March 27 - 29, 2015 at the Marriott in Marietta. **The DEC will meet @ 6:00 pm on Thursday March 26th.** We will have our regular meeting on the 27th. We are planning on having an Auxiliary College on the 28th, finishing up on the 29th after the Poppy dedication service.

Hotel registration and Homecoming Banquet forms are on our web page. If you have not made your reservations please do so. The rooms are getting booked up fast.

The National Commander Mike Helms will be attending our Spring Conference and our Homecoming Banquet.

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 dues must be paid. **Remember we voted NOT TO ACCEPT any payments for Obligations at the Convention.**

HAS YOUR MEMBERSHIP BEEN SENT TO THE DEPT.?
We still have some units on ZERO!

Please be sure to get your membership in, our next milestone goal is February 14th, with the goal set at 85%. We are now at 69.97%. We have missed all of our milestones this year BUT, I know we can do this. Let's don't give up.

South Carolina (Columbia) is hosting 2015 Dept. Training by National Leaders on March 14, 2015 from 9am until 4pm. Lunch is included with the registration fee of \$15. This training is similar to the one held last year with new trainers. If you are interested in going I have included info in this newsletter. We can never get enough training.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY TO ALL OUR MEMBERS! You YES **You are special and loved.**



ATTENTION: National is no longer billing us for the Rehabilitation Assessments/C&Y!! For the Units that have sent in checks you can request a refund or you can let me know if your Unit would like to donate the money to the Department General Fund or to the Loan Payoff. I would need this in writing. If you have any questions just give me a call.

1st Vice President / Leadership

By Rosa Scott, Department 1st Vice President

We are well on our way into the calendar year 2015!

Thanks to everyone who helped in making our Mid-Year Reporting to our National Team a success. We had five districts responding to training and the reporting of 137 members in attendance. Kingsland, GA help to make it six districts responding and our numbers were up to 160 people in attendance for the year.

I want to say **"thanks"** to everyone in helping to make Leadership Workshop 2015 a fun event. It is without a doubt your willingness to participate that made these sessions possible. **So I applaud you!**

Here's hoping that each of Unit in attendance was able to take something "positive" back to their members. Continue to encourage each of your members, put your own style on your leadership techniques to make it your own. Have some fun and let it happen. Learning will come . . . leadership style may varies, however, if you will keep the mission and the purpose in your heart of what we are about it will live on.

As members of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of GA, I consider all of you leaders. It's your commitment to the purpose of our organization and its growth that shows your leadership skills and without the special ingredient (**LOVE**) it wouldn't be possible.

For God and Country



2nd Vice President/Membership

By Miriam Stein, Department 2nd Vice President

Ladies congratulations to Units 44, 79, 82, 149, 247, 307 and 502 for reaching their 100% goal. I am so proud of these units. We only have 4 Units still on ZERO. I know everyone is trying really hard. But the time has come for us to really get on the BALL!!!. Time is running out for us.

Our GEORGIA Eagles needs to get their wings moving in the right direction. Our President will be so proud of us if only we try a little harder.

For God and Country!

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER: In order to be a member in GOOD STANDING your 2015 dues must be paid. If the 2015 dues were not paid prior to December 31, 2014 and received into the department you are not a member in GOOD STANDING. We have members who have paid their dues to the Units but the funds have not reached the Department. Membership Chairmen please DO NOT hold Membership, this puts our members in jeopardy of not being a member in good standing. Check with your Membership Chairman to see if yours has been

Historian

By Anita Owens, Department Historian

February is a great month for recording some history, our National President is scheduled to visit on February 27-March 1st. If you plan to join in with others on her visits be sure to include in your history. Other dates of note are Four Chaplains Programs, President's Day (Washington and Lincoln) and Valentine's Day. If you have special programs planned for these dates don't forget to write them down. If your Unit has not done a Four Chaplains Program, I would encourage you to do so or to attend one within your District or another Unit. It is a small deed to do to give special thanks to these four men for their bravery.

I submitted our Department Mid-Year History Report and I want to especially thank all of the Units that submitted a report to me. I was able to include a lot of what you have been doing in your Units. Our National Historian said we are on the right path and to continue to record and submit to our Division Historian. In order to do that I must have information from you so, be sure to keep me updated with events and happenings within your Units and Districts. As I have previously stated, our State does a wonderful job in all our programs and we need to get the word out to our Division and National Office..

Remember Valentine's Day and hug a veteran, or better yet give him a Valentine Card. Bet he will treasure it.

Chaplain

By Jane Lawrence, Department Chaplain

*God is forever at our side
Wherever we may be
In every happy moment, and
In time of tragedy...
In every disappointment, and
Each wonderful surprise
And all the lonely moments that
Are filled with tears and sighs
In every shadow on the path
Where we may walk today
And to the farthest corner of
The world where we may stay
God hears our every whisper and
He listens to each prayer
And so we have no reason to
Be sad or to despair.
God is forever at our side
We have no need to fear,
As long as we have faith in Him
And we are real sincere.*

Please keep Jane and her family in your prayers during these difficult times. And for the rest of our American Legion Family.

Prayer from "A Prayer Book" printed 1983-1984 by Mrs. Brenda Burkhead 4th District President



OIF veteran Bryan Babot with fellow Georgian Susie Mash at the National Creative Arts Festival in October 2014.

See article in the February 2015 ALA magazine

NEW Juniors Corner

Calling All Juniors to the Spring Conference



If you have any questions please contact

Annette Taylor,

Junior Department Chair

At 706-755-2673

Email TTaylor4010@Yahoo.com

- We will be meeting on Friday, March 27th at 7:00, Saturday at 9:00 and again Saturday evening at 6:00.
- Come ready for some fun, learning, crafts and food. Bring a swim suit there may be some swimming going on.
- Please research a famous female in the military and be prepared to share some information about her. You can even make some signs and bring some prompts.
- Look for more news next month!

Centennial Plan Includes Assessment of ALA

Watch for survey email coming soon!

Plenty has been going on with the ALA's 5-year Centennial Strategic Plan. More than 220 initiatives have been developed to implement the 25 strategies so we can accomplish the five primary goals. Next up is a professional assessment of our capacity to deliver our mission. Your participation in the assessment survey is crucial if we are to grow the organization.

As part of the investment the ALA has made in itself to resource the Centennial Strategic Plan, a professional assessment is being done by Johnson, Grossnickle and Associates using research being conducted by Walker Information. The assessment will determine the organization's capacity to deliver our mission. ALA departments and units have been saying for years that help and training are needed for the organization to do a better job serving our mission. To develop better training, we need your participation in the survey!

Every member has a stake in all of this. Over the next few weeks, all members with a current email address on file with their departments will be emailed an online member assessment from Walker Information. The survey will hit inboxes soon. Current and former Auxiliary members receiving this eNews should be on the lookout for an email from ALA@walkerinfo.com.

The famous **LIQUOR BASKET** is back. Over twelve or more bottles of different liquor and goodies all wrapped up together.

Tickets will be **\$5.00** each. The giveaway will be March 27th at SPRING CONFERENCE. **ALL** proceeds will go to Department.

We are asking ALL UNITS to sell ten (10) raffle tickets. THAT'S ALL, but if you want to sell more that will be GREAT.

The liquor basket will be on display at SPRING CONFERENCE.

If we all help with this fundraiser, we can raise some money for Department.

Enclosed in this newsletter are ten (10) raffle tickets for you.

Make checks out to ALA DEPT. OF GEORGIA.

Bring tickets and money to SPRING CONFERENCE or send them to:

JUDY THOMPSON

1730 DRY POND ROAD N.W.

MONROE, GEORGIA 30656

770-267-6160 - HOME

tdthut@windstream.net

A **BIG THANK YOU**

to Unit 168 for winning

it at Fall Conference

and donating it back.

we raised \$1,325.00.

THANKS KrisAnn Alexander for all your help!!!!

THANK YOU MEMBERS FOR ALL OF YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

LIQUOR BASKET \$5.00 per ticket-Drawing March 27th
ALA DEPT. OF GEORGIA

NAME_____

ADDRESS _____

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ALA DEPT. OF GEORGIA

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ALA DEPT. OF GEORGIA

National President Janet Jefford visits Georgia February 27th – March 2nd 2015



Janet Jefford, of Manchester, Conn., was elected national president of the American Legion Auxiliary during the organization's 94th National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., Aug. 22-28.

Jefford joined the American Legion Auxiliary through her father William Lucas, a WWII Army veteran. She is also eligible through her son, Jeff, a Desert Storm Army veteran. Jefford is a member of Goodale-Rameker Unit 56.

Jefford is the first Connecticut resident to represent the American Legion Auxiliary as national president since Helen Lee Gilbert during the 1944-1945 administrative year. She has held numerous leadership positions in the organization at the unit, district and department levels, including eight national program chairmanships. She currently serves on the 2014-2019 Centennial Strategic Planning leadership team.

Jefford recently retired as vice president of institutional effectiveness at Goodwin College in East Hartford, Conn. She served as a commissioner on an agency that accredits schools and colleges, and as president and chairman of the Board of Connecticut Training Center, a community-based nonprofit training center. Jefford has two children and two grandchildren. All are members of The American Legion Family.

National President Janet Jefford agenda

National President Janet Jefford will arrive in Augusta late on February 27, 2015.

On Saturday, February 28th @ 10am, we will tour the Uptown VA, followed by lunch at Post 178. Afterwards around 1:30pm we will visit the Blue Goose followed by dinner at Post 192 @ 6:00pm.

On Sunday, March 1, 2015 @ 10:00am the National President will visit the Fisher House in Fort Gordon, followed by lunch in the Dining Facility in Fort Gordon to allow her to talk to active duty personnel. Afterwards we will visit the Augusta National Museum, followed by dinner at Post 205, Social Hour 5-6pm with dinner @ 6pm.

Please let the Posts know if you are planning on attending the lunch or dinner. This will allow them time to plan the lunch or dinner accordingly. Our Honorary Junior Department President, Hope Boskey, will also be on the tour with the National President. Let's come out and show our National President the great southern hospitality.

We will be staying at the Doubletree by Hilton in Augusta phone# 706.855.8100 or www.augusta.doubletree.com. Their address is 2651 Perimeter Parkway, Augusta, GA 30909. If you need a room call and use the code AUX. The room rate is \$105 per night which includes taxes. Breakfast is not included but can be purchased for \$10 inclusive.

You will be responsible for you own room and expenses. If you make reservation and need to cancel please make sure you cancel within 72 hours before you are to be there or you will be charged.

Attire: Business Casual

RSVP If attending lunch or dinner:

President of Unit 178: Miriam Stein 706.399.7539

President of Unit 192: Sheila Tinsley 706.231.0583

President of Unit 205: Diane Shirey 706.414.5815

The **Educational Bus**

As you may know, the American Legion Auxiliary has three different types (see Plan of Work 2014-2015) of educational scholarships for your applications. I must have applications before April 15, 2015 to select Georgia's three winners. Also, I must have your End of the Year Report before April 15, 2015. Applications and End of Year Reports are due before April 15, 2015. They must be mailed (no emails) to

Joann T. Meadows, Educational Chairman
105 Woodridge Drive N.W.
Calhoun, Georgia 30701

STOP

Membership:



Where does your department stand in Auxiliary membership? [Log in to the ALA Members Only](#) section of the national website to view the latest reports and membership newsletters.

<https://www.alaforveterans.org/>

eBulletin: ALA In the Know eBulletin

A biweekly bulletin for members by members about ALA programs

Are you a program chairman? Stay in-the-know with [February updates](#) from these committees:

AEF
 Americanism
 Constitution & Bylaws
 Children & Youth
 Community Service
 Education
 Junior Activities
 Leadership
 Legislative
 National Security
 Public Relations

This is a National eBulletin on their website. Great Information

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Information!!

I would like to take a moment to explain about the recent renewals from National. I know several people have gotten them and called questioning as to why. National outsources the mailing of the notices. Considering they send them out to every member, from every unit, from every state they have a specific cut-off date that they choose as to how and when they will send the notices. According to this years' notice it would seem they used the cut-off date of early November. Any membership that I processed from the first of November through January 15th when the renewal notices were sent out received one. I can assure you that this had Nothing to do with my processing of membership. If at any time you feel that your membership has not been processed please feel free to contact Me and ask. I have had a lot going on in my personal life recently, My daughter had a new baby, I had the Flu all through the holidays and My Mother is currently in the hospital in ICU. So yes my plate has been full, but I can assure you my Job as Membership Clerk has not suffered because of this. I have done anything and everything I can to insure that a Membership Transmittal has been sent in for Georgia every week. I process the membership as it is received into Department. When we receive it is immediately stamped the date of its arrival. What I receive in 1 week is transmitted to National the next week and processed on a report for the Department of Georgia. I transmit to National on Mondays and Tuesdays as the National report is generated on Wednesday Morning. As soon as it is generated to National I then generate the report for the Department of Georgia and email to Our Department President and Department Membership Chairman, this is normally done on Wednesday at the latest on Thursday. It is then placed on the website as soon as it is able to be. If at any time you have any questions please feel free to contact me via office phone or email.

Thank you,
 Krista Massengale
 Dept of GA Membership Clerk

**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

February 14 th	Valentine's Day
February 16 th	President's Day (office closed)
February 22-25	Washington DC Conference
February 27 th -March 1 st	National President Visits GA
March 27 - 29, 2015	Spring Conference/College - Marietta DEC Meeting March 26th 6pm
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



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