

# DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA AUXILIARY NEWS

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## A Word from the President

By Gabriele Barnett, Department

I hope everyone had a great holiday season and you were able to enjoy some quality time with your loved ones. I participated in the gift shop at the Augusta VA and I must admit it was a great experience. I know everyone involved in a gift shop- no matter which VA hospital - is committed to make our Veterans feel appreciated. The first weekend of this month I had the great honor to accompany the Juniors and Junior SAL of my Unit (192, Evans) on a trip to Arlington National Cemetery. They were awarded the opportunity to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. What a honor and privilege it was to be escorted by the Honor Guard to the tomb with the Honorary Junior President of Unit 192, the Honorary Junior Commander of Squadron 192, and the Honorary Junior Department President. Thanks to the Pete Woodruff, Historian Department of Georgia we received a private brief afterwards in the guard quarters. Afterwards we spent an entire day walking through the National Mall visiting the various monuments and memorials and teaching our Juniors about the history and significance of them. It is so very important to teach our Juniors about our history, our Veterans, and our country. Remember, our Juniors are our future.

As most of you know, the Joint Special Project of the Commander, the Auxiliary President, the Squadron Commander, and the DOG (Riders) is the VA hospitals. Every year the goal is to raise \$ 100,000 to support the ten (10) medical facilities and twenty (20) outpatient clinics that care for our Veterans. At this point we need app \$80,000.00 to reach this goal. Please consider making a donation to this project. If you send a check to Department make sure you specify President's Special Project. I appreciate your consideration.

We still have pins and t-shirts available. You can contact Patty at the office, Joan Holtzclaw, or myself if you would like to purchase some.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From President Gabriele Barnett	1
Secretary	2
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President /Leadership	2
2nd Vice President / Membership	3
Historian	3
Chaplain	3
Calendar of Events	4
<b>Inserts:</b> Spring Conference Hotel Registration, Homecoming Banquet, Baltimore Barnett Brigade Flyers	
Membership Report	

I appreciate everyone's hard work for our great organization. Please continue to work our programs to ensure that our Veterans are taking care of.

The visit of our National President Janet Jefford to Georgia is scheduled for 27 Feb 15 - 1 Mar 15. We will be visiting the Fisher House in Fort Gordon and the Wounded Warrior Transition Battalion. In addition, we have a visit planned to the Georgia War Nursing Home (Blue Goose) and the Uptown VA Hospital. Once the details are available, I will ask Patty to send out an e-mail blast. Since we are going to a military installation, I will need to know who will be in attendance.



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.** Hotel registration and Homecoming Banquet forms are included in this newsletter and will be put on our web page. We will have our regular meeting on the 27th. We are planning on having an Auxiliary College on 28th, finishing up on the 29th after the Poppy dedication service.

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.**

Please be sure to get your membership in, our next milestone goal is February 14<sup>th</sup>, with the goal set at 85%. We are now at 61.25% I know we can do this.

### Membership Ideas/Tips:

A new year is almost upon us and one way to be more creative in 2015 is to start a "Member of the Month" project.

Each month highlight a member. Create a form and ask members to submit information about themselves, the programs they are involved in, and their favorite ALA program and why. You can use this summary as a guide for a press release on that particular member each month. Include a photo of the member, preferably with an Auxiliary shirt, hat, logo or pin.

If it is not possible to get the article in the local newspaper, find a business in the community that will allow you to post the article each month in their window display or post it on a community bulletin board in the town hall or community center. This is a great way to recognize a deserving member and let the public know about our programs and what we do.

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**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.**

## 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President / Leadership

By Rosa Scott, Department 1<sup>st</sup> 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!

*Happy New Years!!!!*

**2015**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Membership

By Miriam Stein, Department 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 sent in.

## Historian

By Anita Owens, Department Historian

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe that 2014 is gone and we are now on our way in 2015. I want to express my appreciation to all of you that sent in mid-year reports. It was so exciting to read all that you have been doing and the history that you have made.

It is now a good time to start your official book by getting the first few pages done according to the guidelines. National Headquarters has a sample on how to prepare your books along with the guidelines issued on our Department website. If you have any questions or problems do not hesitate to call or email me. I will be happy to help each of you get your book on its way

If this year moves as fast as 2014 we need to get busy, before you know it, we will be at the Department Convention receiving awards for those outstanding History Books that you submitted.

For God and Country

## Chaplain

By Jane Lawrence, Department Chaplain

I certainly hope everyone had a Very Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

For all of us January marks the beginning of a new year, and for many of us it means setting goals, making resolutions, and planning for the year ahead. Though no one has a crystal ball to see into the future, the Book of Proverbs offers the next best thing: an assurance that if we prayerfully consider what we want and commit that plan to the Lord, he will help us to achieve it.

So far, we have only had a couple of sickness this month. With the flu season here I hope and pray that everyone will stay healthy.

Please keep our warriors that are in harms way and their families in your prayers.

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

It is my prayer for the entire Legion Family that 2015 will be the best year ever.

For God and Country

### Following are some Leadership tips:

#### **Provide members with opportunities to use their special skills, interests and energy.**

- a. Invite all members to indicate what skills they have and what they would like to do to help the unit.
- b. Maintain a spreadsheet of members' skills to use when planning events and selecting committee/event

#### **Promote the history, programs, organization and growth of the American Legion Auxiliary.**

- a. Offer training using the American Legion Auxiliary's Sr. and Jr. Leadership Courses.
- b. Invite non-members and other units to join in leadership activities and workshops.
- c. Encourage members to complete the National Leadership Correspondence Course.

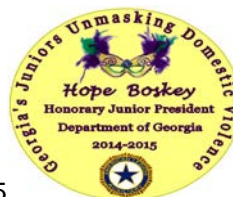
#### **Promote the American Legion Auxiliary logo as a symbol of volunteers helping veterans, their families and their communities.**

- a. Take time at a unit meeting to learn the significance of the ALA logo design.
- b. Display the ALA logo at all hosted events and/or fundraisers.

# NEW Juniors Corner

At the fall conference the Juniors focus was on Breast Cancer awareness. WE performed a play about Breast Cancer at the Auxiliary and SAL Meetings. We collected \$140.00 for Breast Cancer. We were honored to appear in the Legion meeting for the first time.

For Veterans Day, I hosted a Tea Party to Honor the lady Veterans at the Georgia War Veterans Home in Augusta. Our Department President Gabriele Barnett and Fourth District President Sarah Zingarelli attended. A Special Thanks to Judy Adams for th4e lovely Poppy corsages she made for the ladies. Several juniors from Unit 192 helped with the hosting duties. Also, the 192 Juniors made picture frames in the shape of a tea pot to hold the pictures made of each Veteran. My Thanks to all who helped make it a great event. The local television station reporters interviewed me about the Tea Party and Veterans Day. As always it was a honor to speak for our Great Organization.



Hope Boskey Honorary Dept of GA Junior President 2014-2015

## 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.

### ALA members encouraged to serve Jan. 19 on Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service

National Days of Service are a great opportunity for ALA members and units to serve the community in a highly impactful way. The high level of energy and publicity around MLK Day makes this a great opportunity for the ALA to both serve the community and continue to display a positive image to others outside our organization. The national Community Service Committee encourages ALA units to organize service projects around the theme of "Celebrating Student Veterans" or another topic or group of your choice. The national Community Service Committee hopes to have 10 percent of ALA units in each department participate in planning a service project.

Materials to support your planning or involvement in MLK Day of Service projects are available on the [Community Service Program webpage](#).

## MEMBERSHIP

Now with the Holidays behind us it is time to get busy with our Membership! Our 2015 Membership year is far from over and we have a lot of ground to cover over the next few months!!! While we have been busy signing up new members we have been letting the renewals of our current members fall behind. National has been pushing for us to retain our current members. It seems our members fall into a rut around their 3<sup>rd</sup> year of membership after initially joining the Auxiliary. Why not talk to your Membership Chairman and go over your roster and make some phone calls to those members who haven't paid their 2015 dues yet, or maybe didn't pay their 2014 possibly even their 2013. Why not ask them if they would like to pay their 2015 and start anew with 1 year of service. Invite them back to meetings and do your best to get them involved and active again. Surely you can find something for them to do in our Auxiliary to make them feel important! National will send out the 2<sup>nd</sup> renewal notice around the 15<sup>th</sup> of January. Hopefully this will help to get some renewals in for those units that are struggling. If I can help in anyway please let me know, I would be glad to help get more membership coming in for 2015 so we can move forward. Remember MEMBERSHIP is our Lifeline, without our Members Our Auxiliary cannot exist!!!!

Thanks,  
Krista  
Membership Clerk Dept of GA



**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**

January 1 <sup>st</sup>	New Year's Day (office closed)
January 19 <sup>th</sup>	Martin Luther King Day (office closed)
February 22-25	Washington DC Conference
February 27 <sup>th</sup> -March 1 <sup>st</sup>	National President Visit (more info to follow)
March 27 - 29, 2015	Spring Conference/College - Marietta DEC Meeting March 26 <sup>th</sup> 6pm
June 14 - 19, 2015	Girls State, GSU, Statesboro
June 25 - 28, 2015,	Department Convention Dalton, GA
Aug 28 - Sept 3, 2015	97 <sup>th</sup> National Convention Baltimore, MD
Oct 24-25, 2015	Fall Conference Duluth, GA



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