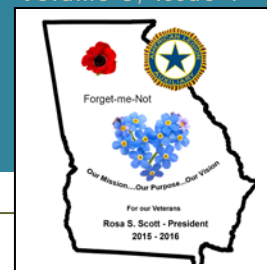


DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA AUXILIARY NEWS

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American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Georgia, 3035 Mt Zion Rd, Stockbridge, GA 30281
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A Word from the President

By Rosa Scott, Department President

To all Auxiliary members of the Department of Georgia, I want to express my heart felt “thanks” for allowing me to serve as your Department of Georgia President for 2015-2016. I can only say, as others before me, “It is such a great honor to serve”.

I had such a wonderful time at the Commander’s, President and SAL reception in Dalton; however, no one gave me hint about how long we would have to stand. A special thanks to my nephew, MSGT. Arlo Southall, USAF Retired, for his patience thru-out the reception line. We really had a great time.

A very heart felt “thank you” to those who attended the installation ceremony and to Nini Lynch who was the installing officer, magnificent as always. Betty Turley, Past Department President, thanks for your assistance also.

It was also wonderful having my family in attendance. They now have a better understanding of the American Legion Auxiliary its program and why this organization means so much to me. This was truly a moment to remember!

The corsages, made with the Forget-me-Nots Flowers and a Poppy, were worn by all the incoming officers. These items together represent my theme for the year: Forget-me-Nots. . the purpose. .the mission . .the vision for our veterans. When joined together, a reminder to each of us as to “why” we chose to join and be a part of this organization.

We are still in the early planning stages; however, The Department Officers and Chairpersons are working behind the scene to enhance the growth and development of all members and our programs. There are plans for constant communication between The Department Officers, Units and Chairperson.

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Miriam Stein and Anita Owens will without a doubt have something wonderful awaiting you on their Leadership and Membership Programs.

We have presented several date(s) for the National President Visit and the official dates will be announced as soon as confirmation is received.

Hopefully the pins and T-Shirt will be available at the Fall Conference.

The Special Project Committee is still in place and these ladies will continue to provide us with an exceptional opportunity to assist the Department of Georgia Auxiliary. Please support them!

So for now, I am making plans to set-up conference calls, visiting other Units as they install their newly elected officers and getting ready for the National Convention in Baltimore.

Once again, to the Department of Georgia Auxiliary members, thank you for this trust, to serve you during this term and as always . . . for God and Country.



Forget-me-Nots..the purpose..the mission..the vision for our Veterans.

Secretary

By Patty Hawkins, Department Secretary

The 2015-2016 year is just starting. We hope to have a wonderful year but it is up to our members to help make it a FORGET-ME-NOT year. One or two people can't do it by themselves, we need all to work together to make this work.

As our Membership is starting to Burst Open with Forget Me Nots let's all pitch in to help getting new members and retaining our current members. I know there are ladies out there who are not aware of all the good work our Auxiliary does to help make the lives of our Veterans better. So ladies spread the word what we do.

National has provided us with the Department and Units membership goals. The Unit goals are included in this newsletter. It's a great time to jump ahead and start collecting membership and not wait on the Renewal Notices.

We have a new Mandatory Obligation that was voted on at the Department Convention June 2015. It's for the Juniors to fund their activities. Each Unit must send in \$10. The Juniors are our future.

I am including the **new 2015-2016 Obligation /Contribution form** with an explanation of each item on the list. **PLEASE throw away any old forms** you have and let's start fresh. That also goes for the New Transmittal forms sent out with the Membership packets.

If you have not received your membership cards by now you will need to contact the Department to see what forms that are missing (ex: Unit Officers list and membership chairman form). They are on our website. www.galegionaux.org

NOTICE: If you are planning on going to Baltimore for the National Convention please get your request in to The American Legion **ASAP** as rooms are getting booked up fast. Remember Dale Barnett from GA is the leading candidate for NATIONAL COMMANDER. You don't want to miss the excitement!!!!

If you are planning on going to the States Dinner the price is \$45 each. The Woman of the Year luncheon \$35 each. Please send your check in no later than August 12th. The prices will go up \$5 each event.

It was nice to see all of you at the Department Convention in Dalton. ☺

Thank You

Thanks for always listening to me, supporting me, and encouraging me. You're a true friend, and I want you to know how much I love and appreciate you. You're the best!

1st Vice President / Leadership

By Miriam Stein, Department 1st Vice President

Ladies, it is a new year.

It is my honor to serve as the Department of Georgia's 1st Vice President this year. I am planning to have three (3) leadership workshops this year. The first one will be September 12th at Tybee Island, and on September 26th one will be held at Conyers Unit 77. I hope to hold one around the Warner Robins area.

We need all members to try to attend at least one of the workshops. More information will be coming in later newsletters. Please plan to attend one. We need to learn to educate our members and officers on how to report what we do and to organize ourselves more so we can report what we do for our veterans.

The rules for the yearbook will be coming out soon. I would like to see the 1st Vice President of each Unit to submit one this year. If I can help your Unit in anyway please let me know.

Miriam Stein
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Betty Hanna -VAMC Atlanta-Decatur Volunteer of the Year. (Atlanta VAMC news article)

Betty Hanna is one of the most helpful volunteers and consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty for our Veterans. She is a treasure in the Voluntary Services office. She routinely volunteers and provides support every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the medical center. She focuses on organizing the clothing closet for Veterans and is responsible for organizing the book room. Ms. Hanna participates in every major event at the medical center. This year she took the lead to organize the American Legion Auxiliary Patient gift shop in both Atlanta and Carrolton and was able to raise and give away \$10,000 in gifts to our patients at the main campus as well as the Trinkka Davis Veterans Village. During the Homeless Stand Down she volunteered for one of the most hectic assignments - running and coordinating the command center. She never shies away from helping and no task is too much for her. Ms. Hanna is a valuable part of the day to day operation of Voluntary Service, she is a joy to work with and we are so very thankful to her and all of our volunteers for their support of the Atlanta VAMC and our Veterans.

2nd Vice President/Membership

By Anita Owens, Department 2nd Vice President

A new year has started and the FORGET ME NOTS ARE BURSTING OPEN FOR MEMBERSHIPS. Unit and District Presidents I want to work with each of you to see what we can do to get our membership moving upward.

A lot of changes will be forthcoming in our membership programs some examples are:

For Charter Cancellations: National Headquarters has made an action/checklist that must be completed before we can put in a request for a charter to be cancelled. A copy of that document is attached to this newsletter. I know we had one charter cancellation put forth at our Convention but no action was taken. We will need to follow the cancellation guidelines and hopefully we can at least keep our members if not the Unit when we cancel a charter. Those members who would like to stay a part of the Auxiliary can be moved to the Georgia 400 Unit and retain their membership but not have to be involved in running a Unit.

District Commanders are in the process of setting up dates for revitalization efforts and have invited the Auxiliary to be a part of this effort. Please contact Headquarters when you have set up a date in your District so that we can work with you. This will be a great opportunity for both the Legion and the Auxiliary to add growth to memberships.

Membership quotas will be given to us from National Headquarters this year. We will have a little room to make some changes but not much. As soon as they are received you will be notified of your quota. This is being done in an effort to reach our 5-year Strategic Plan of a Million members in five years.

If you come across someone who would like to join the Auxiliary but does not want to be involved within a Unit, let them know that they can belong to our Headquarters 400 Unit and just get information about the Auxiliary and not be contacted directly.

As I said we are looking a different ways to raise our membership and we are open to suggestions from each of you. Let's keep working to achieve our goals. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, ideas, etc. by either email for telephone. My email is anita@bellsouth.net and phone 770-846-4454. Thank you so much for all that you do for our veterans.

Historian

By Jane Lawrence, Department Historian

I want to extend my appreciation to everyone for allowing me to service as your Department Historian.

I would like to have an outstanding History Book this year, and to do so I need input from every Unit.

Historian, please send me the information on what is happening in your Unit.

I have been invited to attend several of the Units installation of officer. I hope to attend as many as possible.

To contact me my email is janeal1@yahoo.com and my address is 180 Parkwood Dr., NE, Kennesaw, GA. 30144. My phone number is 770-926-3468 (H) or 404-783-1835 (C). Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need help.

In order for our future generations to know how things were done, and why, they need to have the history books to review. So please record all that your Unit is doing.

Chaplain

By Valerie Brown-Debro, Department Chaplain

For God & Country, we associate ourselves for the following purpose. To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America. Ladies, as we promote peace and goodwill on earth; to safeguard and transmit to Posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy. Matthew 6:33 says, But Seek ye first, the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all things shall be added to them.

There is a time and a season for all things. I would like to thank the Tenth District, and Rockdale County Unit 77 for their support in presenting me as a candidate for Department Chaplain. As I humble myself, this is an honor and privilege; to serve together with the members of the best organization in the Nation.

If two or more shall come together in agreement in prayer, asking for anything according to the will of God, it shall be done for them. My prayer is that we all come together in unity, to love your neighbor as you would love yourself; to serve together to support the memories and incidents of our association in the Great Wars; Support our Veterans and their families, support the American Legion Family. POW/MIA, Gold Star and Blue star Mothers, together, we will have a successful year.

I encourage all District and Unit Presidents to pass the information to their members, to send prayers and devotional thoughts and poems, to assist in keeping our members encouraged in thoughts and prayers. Send me the names of members that are ill and shut in. A great source for prayer book, send me your church bulletins with pictures, with prayers. Forward your Chaplain my address, phone numbers and email which are listed below, so that I can send out Get Well and Sympathy cards as the needs arise.

Please keep our Veterans who are serving in harm's way, in VA hospitals and their families in your prayers. Remember Freedom is not free.

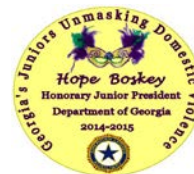
Valerie Brown-Debro
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404-201-5138 (c) Valerie.Debro@yahoo.com

NEW Juniors Corner

I would like to say "Thank You" to everyone who supported me this past year. Your donations have helped me pass my goal. With your donations the Haven House shelter for abused women and children will receive \$4,600.00 from us to assist with the cost of food.

Thank You ... Please support our Juniors

Hope Boskey 2014-2015 Honorary Junior Department President



Has your Unit Filed the 990 E-Postcard????

We have many units who are losing their Non-Profit tax-exemption due to not filing taxes for THREE (3) Consecutive years. Once you lose the tax-exemption you will have to pay the IRS \$400 to get re-instated, plus any fee a professional tax person will charge.

This is a serious matter: For Units and Districts

Have you filed the 990 E- Postcard (when & did you send the Department Headquarter a copy)?

Do you know when your year ends?

Have you sent in an inclusion letter to the Department Headquarters? One is enclosed, if your tax EIN/TIN has been revoked there is no need to send one.

Has the person who is filing your taxes changed? If so did you file an 8822B form with the IRS? This must be done so the IRS will be able to contact someone by mail.

Listen UP!!!!

Every unit must have an EIN/TIN in order to be Tax-exempt. Tax-exemption is a privilege granted by both the federal government (through the IRS) and state governments because each has its own authority to tax individuals and organizations. Tax-exemption is granted to nonprofit organizations that exist to do mission-driven work that benefits the public good – the public at large or a specific group, like veterans.

Information referenced in the Appendix can assist your unit in understanding its obligations for a) Operating as a tax exempt not-for-profit corporation permitted to use the name and trademarks of the American Legion Auxiliary, and b) Filing an annual IRS Form 990 American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) departments and units are separate entities that operate independently as affiliates of the ALA national organization.

All ALA entities – units, departments and districts/counties/councils – are permitted by the national organization to use the name and trademarks of the American Legion Auxiliary and must comply with the national legal requirements for use of same. As independently operating not-for-profit corporations, departments and units must duly report to their respective state governments and to the federal government via the IRS Form 990. Departments, districts/counties/councils and units that have maintained their exempt status by complying with IRS requirements and that are in good standing are tax-exempt under the ALA National Organization Group Exemption Number (GEN).

Therefore, by virtue of the American Legion Auxiliary National Organization Group Exemption, ALA Departments and Units that have not had their tax exempt status revoked by the IRS or that have not obtained a separate tax exempt number via a Letter of Determination from the IRS fall within the Group and are tax exempt under Section 501 (c) (19) of the Internal Revenue Service Code.

The purpose of the IRS federal group exemption is to exempt the American Legion Auxiliary National Organization and those falling under the ALA's National Group Exemption (GEN 0964) from federal income tax. The Auxiliary at all levels is otherwise subject to other federal taxes such as payroll taxes and tax on unrelated business income. Units, departments, and departments and districts/counties/councils may also be subject to certain state and local taxes, including hotel, hospitality, service, and sales taxes. All states are different; be sure to consult with a tax adviser knowledgeable about your state's not-for-profit tax requirements to determine if not-for-profit organizations in your state are afforded any state tax exemptions.

The federal TIN/EIN does NOT indicate tax-exempt status. An organization can be incorporated as a not-for-profit and have the required TIN/EIN but still NOT be tax exempt. The IRS's discretion to grant not-for-profit exemption from paying federal income taxes is an entirely separate federal filing and determination process. For units, departments and districts/counties/councils, the ALA National Organization Group Exemption provides tax-exempt status unless the IRS has specifically revoked a Unit's or D/C/C's exempt status.

Both the federal TIN and the federal EIN are unique 9-digit identification numbers. If units, departments, or departments and districts/counties/councils have or will have employees, an EIN is required; otherwise, a TIN is sufficient. While units, departments, and departments and districts/counties/councils are strongly advised to incorporate, the units, departments, and departments and districts/counties/councils should apply for and obtain a TIN/EIN whether or not incorporated. Each TIN/EIN is on file with the IRS and should be used on all tax returns and correspondence, and should be retained permanently for ready reference.

This was copied out of the Department Operations Guide Book. This book is loaded with important and useful information. We have CD's for sale for \$5.00 each. Everyone can buy one for their records or you may copy it from National's website. Just to let you know it has over 250 pages. Or you can order the book from National for \$45.**



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"

Calendar of Upcoming Events 2015

July 4 th , 2015	Independence Day
Aug 28 - Sept 3, 2015	97 th National Convention Baltimore, MD
September 7, 2015	Labor Day (office closed)
September 11, 2015	Patriot Day
September 12, 2015	Leadership Training, Tybee Island
September 26, 2015	Leadership Training, Conyers Unit 77
Oct 24-25, 2015	Fall Conference Duluth, GA Youth Champion Banquet
June 12 - 17, 2016	Georgia Girls State, GSU, Statesboro, GA



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