

# DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA AUXILIARY NEWS

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

"We are family I got all my sisters with me" are the opening lines to very well know song by Sister Sledge. "We Are Family" could have been used as the opening song for the Fall Conference. You were there in wonderful numbers and with excitement, from the opening session to the very end. You were awesome! Especially the DEC meeting, this was the most informative one I seen in a long time!

As we began the morning session, the gavel rang out loud, the room filled with anticipation. We were off, the Department of Georgia Officers presided over their specific area, each chair reported and their delivery was on point as each one held the audience attention. You the members, were very interacting and the response was wonderful. It was informative and fun at the same time, what more could I say. It was because of each of you, the Fall Conference was a success.

I hope that the information you received at this conference enabled you to fill your "harvest basket" of continuous knowledge of our organization.

Now that you are back within your Unit/District the information obtained must be shared and acted upon; without investing in these last two components we will not have continuous success.

I would suggest that each Chair review their information, make sure if you have to submit a mid-year report that you start gathering your information now to meet the deadline date. Contact Unit / District to make sure you report the information that is required.

We have secured a date for the National President Sharon Conatser visit. She will arrive on May 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>, further information will be provided at a later date. Your participation in this event will be welcome.

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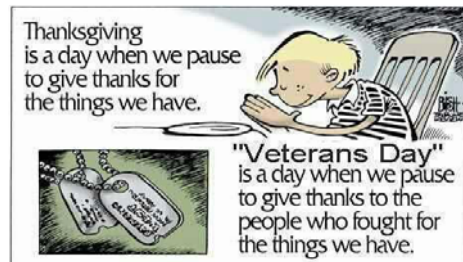
As our Department begins to strengthen from within, we can now move outward to Unit/District. This is due to your support of strengthening the foundation of your Department of GA. Your belief in why you became a member of this great organization and looking forward to the future.

We strive to remember it is "service not self" for our veteran, that keep us moving forward. We encourage you to embrace other, to cultivate goodwill amongst members, to teach and listen to your members for they are an important factor in our growth and development.

November 11<sup>th</sup> marks the celebration of Veteran Day, however, we as auxiliary members know it is something we do almost every day of the year to touch the lives of veterans and their families.

To the ladies of the Department of Georgia, I salute you and say "thank you" for the wonderful job you do!

For God and Country



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

## Secretary

By Patty Hawkins, Department Secretary

It's getting to be that time of year where everything seems to be in a rush. Poppies have been mailed for the Poppy Drives which are in full bloom.

Thanksgiving will be here before we know it then on to Christmas. Many things must be done before we reach the end of the year. Let's don't forget our Veterans.

The 2015 Christmas/Joy Shops are soon approaching. The monies should be sent to the department headquarters so I can get the checks to the VA reps for early shopping. See the list of when the Christmas Gift Shops will be.

### Mark your calendar: Gift Shops dates:

12/1 -12/4/2015	Atlanta V.A.
11/30 -12/2/2015	Augusta Uptown
12/4 -12/5/2015	Dublin V.A.
12/3 -12/4/2015	GWVH Milledgeville

### The Hospitals visits for this year:

December 11<sup>th</sup> VA Medical Ctr., (Downtown),  
Augusta 9:00am

December 11<sup>th</sup> VA Medical Ctr., (Uptown), Augusta  
1:00pm

December 12<sup>th</sup> GA War Veterans Home, Augusta  
9:00am

Now it's time to talk about membership. Membership is coming in pretty slow. However, we did reach our 45% Membership goal for November 11<sup>th</sup>. Great job!

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.

Happy Thanksgiving ☺ May you have good health and stay safe.

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

By Miriam Stein, Department 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Ladies, we had 4 leadership workshops so far. They all turned out very good. I hope everyone enjoyed them and learned a lot of good information. I hope everyone has a HAPPY THANKSGIVING.

There will be some workshops maybe after the first of the year. Remember that the leadership chairman's job is to help any officer or member in your Unit that needs your help. We are always teaching our juniors. They are the future leaders of our auxiliary. Be safe and have a great month.

For God and Country,

Miriam Stein  
Dept. 1st Vice President  
706-399-7539  
[miriam363rs@gmail.com](mailto:miriam363rs@gmail.com)

## 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!

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

By Anita Owens, Department 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

It was so much fun to see and talk to all of you attending the Fall Conference. We hear and read about each other from Facebook posting, talking on the telephone and emails but it is so much better to see you face to face. I know I did not get a chance to meet each and everyone but we will get there soon.

What a fantastic surprise Krista had for me upon arriving at the conference with a brand new membership report and some fantastic figures that show all the work you have been doing on your membership. On our Labor Day report, we had 81 Units still sitting with zero memberships paid and then on the October 22<sup>nd</sup> report you had decreased that total down to 18. Thank you for all the hard work. I know that some of these 18 are Units that will be closing but some are not and you the Districts and Units know which ones they are. Please try to get this changed before our next reporting.

At the Conference, I handed out to the Districts an envelope that contained instructions on actions to take to turn in a Unit's Charter; a paper on how to get passwords and usage of the ALAMIS (American Legion Auxiliary Membership Information System); a paper with all the monthly percentage goals; forms to use to obtain recruitment buttons and recognition; 2015 membership awards available from National and Promise Date Certificates to give to the Units that met the Labor and Columbus Day Promise dates. I did not have all the certificates since the report Krista gave me was updated but they are now in the mail the Districts who will see that you get them.

We have two Units that will be receiving monies from National for reaching their 100+% membership prior to December 31, 2015 along with a Flag Ribbon. Congratulations to Unit 106 Trenton, District 7 and Unit 336 Lakeland District 12. Great Job Ladies.

As explained at the conference, this year we will be recognizing the Units achieving the monthly percentage milestones and not on the number of members. We feel this will be a fair recognition for all the Units and ultimately meet our goal of 100%. Sometimes numbers in themselves just are depressing but when you are dealing in increments it makes it more doable. YOU still have time to reach your 100% and receive the monies and a flag ribbon prior to December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Good Luck ladies I know you can do it. I am going to be attending two District Meetings in February and will be glad to attend one of yours and talk about membership if you would like. Please contact me at [Anitia@bellsouth.net](mailto:Anitia@bellsouth.net) or my cell 770-846-4454 so we can set up a date.

## Historian

By Jane Lawrence, Department Historian

We are now into that time of year that Units are making a lot of history. Please, Unit Historians keep up with what your Unit is doing, especially during the upcoming holiday season.

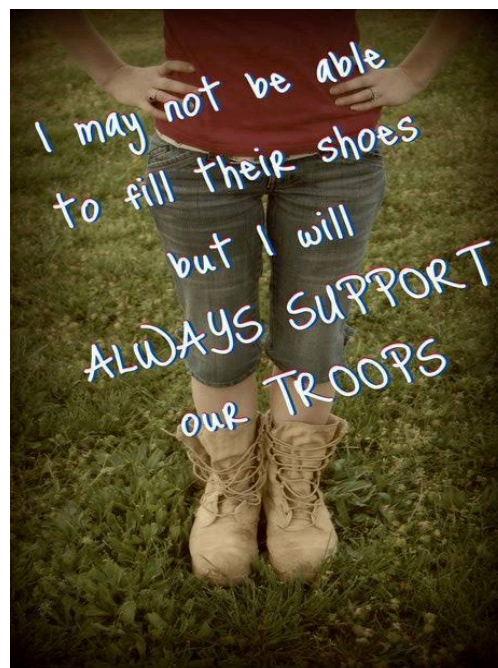
I am please to report that the Historian Plan of Action is now on the National web site. If you have questions or concerns, please refer to the Plan of Action or contact me.

I need your mid-year reports by December 15th. so I can send a report to National to show them what our Georgia Units are doing. Can't wait to hear from you. It will take all of us to make this an outstanding year.

I want to wish each of you and your family a Very Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving.

Remember we are here to serve our Veterans, so please keep them in your prayers, and thank them for their service.

For God and Country



**PERCENTAGE GOALS FOR MEMBERSHIP****2015-2016**

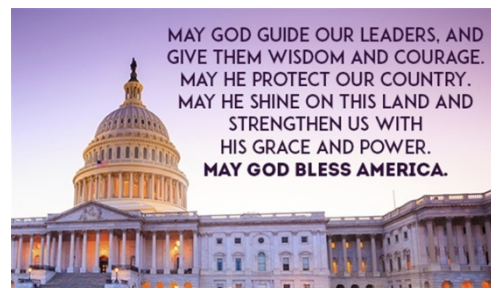
<b>Labor Day</b>	<b>September 7, 2015</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Columbus Day</b>	<b>October 12, 2015</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>Veterans Day</b>	<b>November 11, 2015</b>	<b>45%</b>
<b>Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 2015</b>	<b>December 7, 2015</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>Valentine's Day</b>	<b>February 14, 2016</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>Legion Birthday</b>	<b>March 15, 2016</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>Earth Day</b>	<b>April 22, 2016</b>	<b>85%</b>
<b>Armed Forces Day</b>	<b>May 21, 2016</b>	<b>90%</b>
<b>Flag Day</b>	<b>June 14, 2016</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>Independence Day</b>	<b>July 4, 2016</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>30 Days National Convention</b>	<b>July 30, 2016</b>	<b>102%</b>

**Happy Birthday to us!**

The American Legion designated the birth date of the American Legion Auxiliary as Nov. 10, 1919, as per our National Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules. Is your unit celebrating? [Tell us about it!](#)

**Chaplain**

By Valerie Brown-Debro, Department Chaplain

**In Honor of Veterans Day**

Lord, today we seek to honor your sons and daughters who have served or who are serving our country. We are reminded that because of their service we can live in safety. We ask that you provide them with your protection, your strength, and your peace. We ask that you would abundantly provide for all their needs. We ask that you would enable them to overcome every personal and professional obstacle. We ask that you would protect their families from hurt and harm. In recognition to our wounded warriors. We realize that many of our heroes are dealing with physical and emotional wounds that occurred as a result of their time of service to our country.

We pray that they find favor with God and with man and be given the best treatments available and that you would add your supernatural blessings to all the efforts given to them to help them. We ask that you, Lord, would show them miracles as they seek to gain health, stability, and wholeness.

We pray these things in Jesus' name,  
Amen

Keep our **American Legion Family** in your prayer... Stay encouraged! If God is for Us, Who can be against us... Send me your Prayers & Devotions.

Read (Psalm 23)

**Valerie Brown-Debro**  
Department of Auxiliary Chaplain

Valerie.Debro@yahoo.com



Christmas is almost here and it is time to honor our veterans and their families with gifts from the V.A. Gift Shops. Our Hospital Representatives and Volunteers do a great job in gathering the gifts and distributing them at the hospitals. Thanks to all of the Units who gather gifts or donate funds each year.

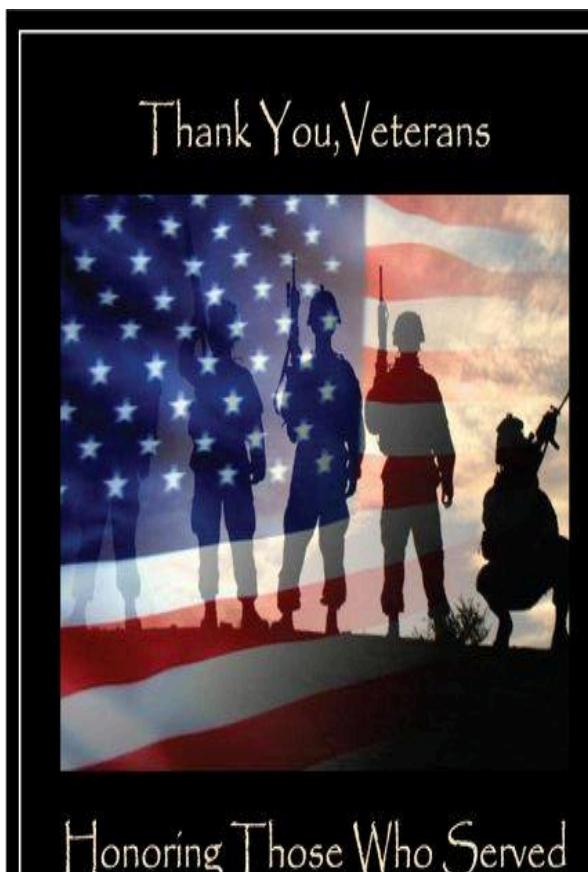
**Here are the dates and Hospital Representatives that are in charge of the V.A. Gift Shops:**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Hospital</u>	<u>Hospital Reps and Contact Information</u>
12/1 -12/4/2015	Atlanta V.A.	Betty Hanna (404) 731-7878
11/30 -12/2/2015	Augusta Uptown	Miriam Stein (706) 399-7539
12/4 -12/5/2015	Dublin V.A.	Rhonda King (478) 984-4519
12/3 -12/4/2015	GWVH Milledgeville	Kathy Browder-Woods (478) 452-3165

Lake City does not have a Gift Shop

Send all checks designated to "The Gifts Shops" to ALA Department of Georgia, 3035 Mount Zion Rd., Stockbridge, Ga. 30281. So that we can keep records of the funds contributed. Thank you for Christmas Assessment funds that also go to give each veteran a small token of our love and appreciation. May each and every one of you have a joyful Christmas and your hearts be filled with pride that you have honored our veterans so well.

Susie Mash  
Department of Georgia VA&R Chairman



**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 **Early bird deadline is TODAY!**

Las Vegas – Jan. 23, 2016

## Bulletin # 1

## Georgia Girls State

**WHAT:** Girls State    **WHERE:** Statesboro, Georgia at Georgia Southern University    **WHEN:** June 12-17, 2016

**CHAIRMAN:** Deedy Harrell

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Interest in government, leadership, citizenship, honesty, scholarship, character, and completion of their junior year in high school.

**ORIENTATION:** Orientation should be a part of your Girls State plan so that the girls and their parents understand in advance what to expect upon arrival. Please call on a staff member in your area to help with your orientation if help is needed. Former Girls Citizens can also be helpful when getting students prepared for the session.

**PUBLICITY:** Unit chairmen, be sure to contact local media for coverage as soon as your delegates have been selected. Many newspapers are willing to publish pictures and short articles about the program. Invite delegates to a unit meeting after the session to report to the unit.

**FEE:** Checks must be made out to Girls State and mailed to the Department Headquarters. **Send the fee of \$260.00 per girl to the American Legion Auxiliary Department Headquarters, 3035 Mt. Zion Road, Stockbridge, GA 30281 before April 30, 2016** to assure space for your girls. Call the director for late payments of fees.

Parents must fill out a medical history/ consent form/parent waiver. A physical by a doctor is not required.

**DISTRICTS:** Each district is to elect a counselor and pay \$260.00 for the counselor to attend. Please notify the director upon the election and have the counselor send the director a resume.

**APPLICATIONS:** Applications are available by calling or emailing me, or they can be picked up at Fall Conference or accessed on the website.

**To Be Mailed to the Director:** After applications are filled out by the girl, the high school and the unit, please send applications, medical history/ consent form/ parent waiver, a copy of both sides of the insurance card and photos to **Deedy Harrell, 800 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169** by May 10, 2016. This is the deadline, so please try to get them to me **earlier**, if possible. Call the director for late applicants.

After I received the application, I will send the forms packets to the girls. If you plan to print the forms packet for your girls, please signify that on the application. It will save postage for Girls State

**WEBSITE:** [www.georgiagirlsstate.org](http://www.georgiagirlsstate.org) On the website you will be able to get applications and all documents necessary for girls' packets.

**EMAIL:** Georgia Girls State email: [georgiagirlsstate@gmail.com](mailto:georgiagirlsstate@gmail.com) for the director, Deedy Harrell

**PHONE number:** Deedy 770-337-7997 Call or text

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

**APRIL 30, 2016** Checks for \$260.00 per girl due to the Department Headquarters

**May 10, 2016** Completed applications, medical history and consent form, parent waiver, copy of both sides of the insurance card and photo of the girl due to Director.

**June 12, 2016** Arrival at Girls State between 1:00 and 3:00 PM

**June 17, 2016** Graduation at 8:45 AM and departure by 1:00 PM

Delays cause your girls to have difficulty in getting prepared for the program. If you find out that a girl is not coming after having sent in her application, please let us know. We make phone calls to all no shows and it will help us if we can limit the number of calls necessary. Let us know even up the last day. **Please join the Girls State Booster Club!!**

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Deedy Harrell, Director

## LEGISLATIVE

JUDY M. THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN

LINDA BROCK

The Legislative Program provides information and assistance to American Legion Auxiliary members to advocate for the legislative agenda of The American Legion.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

ENCOURAGE MEMBERS TO BE MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE to take action on The American Legion's legislative priorities.

- Know what the American Legion's priorities are.
- Visit The American Legion website at [www.legion.org/legislative](http://www.legion.org/legislative) to find the latest information. Legislative agendas, point papers and priority sheets are a few of the topics listed.
- Contact your U.S. representative and/or U.S. senators
- Write - mail is still being irradiated if sent to the Washington office; send it to your district office where it will reach the official much sooner.
- Call - The district or Washington office. You will usually talk to aides and they will do their best to convey your message. Try to establish a relationship with the aides responsible for the topic.
- Email - When you write an email, it is in your own words and thoughts and not subject to interpretation. Emails often receive replies when mailed letters do not.
- Visit in person - in the Washington or district office. Make an appointment and/or attend a town hall meeting.
- Hear local and state candidates talk about their platform and how they relate to helping our Veterans and Military.
- Report back to the response received to your unit, district, department and/or national chairman.
- Last, PLEASE VOTE!!! This is your VOICE!!!

I would like to receive the **MID-YEAR'S REPORT** by **DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015** so I may have my report into Nationals on time. The Legislative report form and the Plan of Work's is on the Department web site. PLEASE look it over and see what the plans are for the year and also what Nationals is asking of us. THANK YOU ALL for your hard work.

Everyone have a "BLESS HAPPY THANKSGIVING."



**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**

November 11, 2015      Veterans Day (office closed)  
 November 26, 2015      Thanksgiving Day (office closed  
    November 26 and 27<sup>th</sup>.)

See dates for VA Gift Shops

**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	98 <sup>th</sup> National Convention Cincinnati, Ohio

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