

# DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA AUXILIARY NEWS

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## A Word from the President

By Rosa Scott, Department President

The 95<sup>th</sup> National Convention has ended, however the work continue. As our newly installed National President, Sharon Conatser has promised, to continue the work set forth in the Centennial Plans.

We, as the Department of Georgia will be joining her in this continuous effort. There are so many wonderful things ahead.

Do you want to be the first to know what they are? Do you want to be informative within your Unit/ District? The best advice I can give you is to part of the team. Join us by getting alerts from the Department of GA, website: [www.galegionaux.org](http://www.galegionaux.org) . Be the first to know how each Unit/ District is doing in membership. Find out when there is a Mission Training within your area of travel. What are the new plans for the Junior? Will the National President visit Georgia?

On the national website: [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org) ; see the plans you can use to assist you in planning your year. Just sign up on the national website using your membership number on your card. These resources are here for you.

As leaders, we want each member to have the latest up-to -date information available. We do understand that there are some who do not have access to the computer, there will need to be another mean for you to access this information. However, you must communicate this to us.

The key is communication and implementation of the information you receive. Don't keep it to yourself, share it with other.

## Key information for you:

Fall Conference / Information from National Convention

Changes to the date of the Spring Conference

Mission Training coming to Atlanta / Junior involvement

Centennial Implementation Update

Stand-down at Ft. McPherson coming soon

Giving Tuesday for the ALA Foundation

How to handle any situation in your Unit

These are just a few points of interest available for you. Knowledge of your organization will help you in planning your meeting and when speaking to other within the community you will be able to let them know who we are and what we do; before you know it you may have gained a member or two.

You will be "Keeping the Promise" and fulfilling the mission, the purpose and the vision to our veteran



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

## Secretary

By Patty Hawkins, Department Secretary

Time is flying by with so many things going on. Our National Convention in Baltimore, MD was exciting. See one of Georgia's Legion members became the new National Commander. Congrats Dale Barnett.

We were represented in all the committee meetings and in all of the breakout workshops. Hope everyone who went got lots of information. A great time was had by all who attended.

What an exciting year we have ahead of us. Membership notices went out September 1st. Lets' get that membership rolling in. National is still giving us a way to Honor Our Female Veterans. Enclosed in this newsletter is a flyer with all the info.

Fall Conference will be October 24 - 25<sup>th</sup> at the Sonesta Hotel in Duluth, with our DEC meeting on October 23<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Have you made your reservation? Let's plan on supporting our youth by attending the Youth Champions Banquet. See inserts.

We have Leadership workshops scheduled with the 1<sup>st</sup> one in Tybee Island Unit 184 on September 12<sup>th</sup> begins 9am. On September 27<sup>th</sup>, Unit 77 in Conyers will host the next one, Macon Unit 3 will be held on October 10<sup>th</sup>. District 7 is working on one, the date maybe November 14<sup>th</sup>. I'm sure you can find one to attend a little knowledge can go a long way, but you must reach out to get it.

### Patriot Day

The American Legion Auxiliary calls upon its members to join the annual 9/11 Day Observance. Known formally as "Patriot Day," Congress has designated each September 11 to be a "national day of service and remembrance" to pay tribute to the victims of the terrorist attacks on our nation that occurred September 11, 2001, through good deeds and charitable service.



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

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

The Forget-me-Nots are beginning to grow a little but a lot of work to do before the leadership workshops can take place.

Our first workshop will be at Tybee Island Unit 154 at 10 Veterans Drive, Tybee Island, GA 31401 on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Registration will begin at 9:00 am, the workshop begins at 10:00 am, lunch be served at 12 noon. The cost will be either \$5.00 or \$7.00. The workshop should be finished by 2:30 pm. Contact person is Wanda Kendrick, Unit President 1-912-657-0589

The second workshop will be September 26<sup>th</sup> Conyers Unit 77, 674 American Legion Rd, Conyers, GA 30012. Registration will begin at 9:00 am, workshop begins at 10:00 am, lunch be served at 12 noon. The workshop should be finished by 2:20pm. Contact person is President Bobbie Hudson 1-470-899-8445.

Our third workshop is October 10<sup>th</sup>, Unit 3 Macon 5530 Thomaston Rd, Macon, GA 31220. Carrol Griffin District 6th President is the contact person 478-457-7718 or 478-453-0295.

I am still working on one for November.

Please call me 706-399-7539 or email [miriam363rs@gmail.com](mailto:miriam363rs@gmail.com) if you need to know anything else. Ladies we have to keep our members informed and educated in the Auxiliary.

For God and Country

### September is Suicide Prevention Month: 1 small act promotes Veterans Crisis Line

This September, Suicide Prevention Month is your opportunity to join millions of Americans who are supporting veterans by raising awareness about the Veterans Crisis Line – where free, confidential support for veterans in crisis is just 1 call, 1 chat, or 1 text away.

Take 1 minute to show you care. Before the end of August, sign up for #ThePowerOf1 Thunderclap. [Learn how here.](#)

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

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

**Bursting Open....**Ladies it is time for us to start planting those Forget-Me-Nots in our membership. I know that you have received your quotas for the 2015-2016 year and that to some it has been very upsetting. I am asking you to not let that happen. Get out there and start talking to people, set up membership tables to let the public know what you are doing and making them want to be a part of it. Sell all the good things that you do for our veterans both active and inactive. There are a lot of people that we have yet to meet that are relatives of veterans and not aware that we exist and what we do.

I feel that if you have put your programs out there and reach out, you will see your membership increase. So what if you do not reach your goal. You feel good that you have done everything within your control to bring on the membership.

Right now it is time to get your renewals moving in the right direction. Attached to the newsletter are the percentage goals for membership issued by National Headquarters. Our first goal was for September 7<sup>th</sup> at 25%. We came very close to that goal with District 8 at 20.92% and District 7 at 20.37% and Krista still had more to enter. I also want to mention and congratulate those 29 Units that reached or exceeded 25% goal. That is outstanding work ladies getting those renewals in. Let's see if we can meet the next goal set for Columbus Day, October 12, 2015 of 35%. Did you know that we have a lot of Units showing no members paid? Our Unit officers should be some of the first members to renew their membership. No one should be setting on zero paid members. Unit Presidents help your membership chairman by paying your dues getting your fellow officers to pay their dues and encourage other members that it should be done.

In closing, I want to pass along what was conveyed to us at the National Convention in Baltimore with regard to the increase in our membership goal numbers this year and the continued increase in the next five years. Are you aware of the fact that for the past 12 years we have had a steady decline in membership nationwide

and if we continue in that trend then we will eventually fade away? Who will help our veterans then, when there are not enough voices out there for our Congress to listen to? I beg each of you to not let this happen, let's look on the positive side that it will be possible to increase our members. Maybe we will not get them all this first year but we commit to continue to try to get members every day.

For God and Country,

## Historian

By Jane Lawrence, Department Historian

Ladies, summer is over and fall colors are beginning to show on the trees. Time is going so fast and this is the reason we need to make sure that we record what is happening in our Units. We want to make sure those that follow us will know how hard our Units are working for our Veterans and our communities.

Historians, when things are happening in your Unit, please make sure you record it daily or weekly, which will make your jobs so much easier.

If you need help, please give me a call or e-mail me. I will be glad to help in any way I can.

At present, the format for the History Book is not available, but should be after the National Convention. Once the information is available, I will keep you informed.

Please send me your history, so I can start the Department History Book soon.

Thanks for all you do.



**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</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>

Dear Auxiliary Members,

It's that time of the year. The VA Reps are gearing up to go shopping for the Gift Shops for our Veterans.

Please forward your checks to the Department, so I can get them to our VA Reps in time to get the best bargains.

Thanks you in advance for your generous donations.

Also at the Fall Conference the Reps will be collecting white socks for the Veterans. Let's make it a sock- a- thon. Brings as many as you want!

Thank you,

Patty Hawkins, Department Secretary



## Chaplain

By Valerie Brown-Debro, Department Chaplain

This is the Day which the Lord our God has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it. As we are preparing for National Convention, bless our leadership that we have elected for this term. Grant us Your wisdom that we may keep open hearts and clear minds as we elected those who will lead us in the future. We pledge ourselves always to support the programs and the information received will be means of inspiration to us and those we share it with in our various places of responsibilities.

When opportunity meets preparation, we are already equipped to do what God has placed in us for the good of the American Legion Organization. As we encourage each other, where there is sickness, health; where is sadness, joy? For it is in giving we receive... God has graced us to live a victorious life!

The ideas of Justice, Freedom, Democracy and Loyalty so that the American Legion Auxiliary may accomplish its share of building toward a better world. Let us not forget that to each generation comes its patriotic duty and that upon willingness to sacrifice and endure as those men and women who served this country, they have sacrificed and endured, rests the hope of this nation.

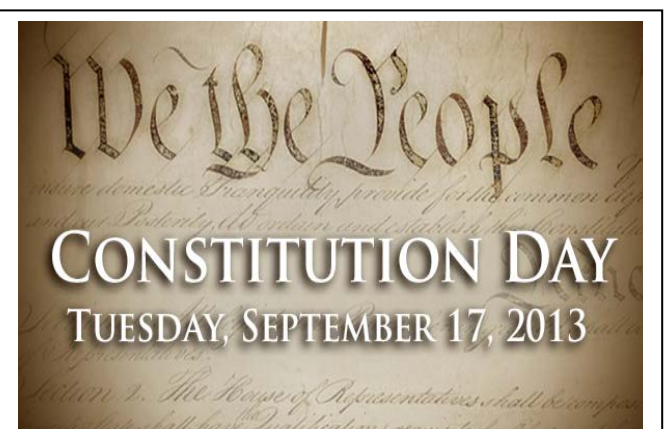
**Continue to pray for our nation, our military family, and communities. God Bless them, and God Bless America.**

Send me your Prayers & Devotions.

\*\*\***Committee Chairmen** reporting under Chaplain: Legislative \* National Security \* Auxiliary Emergency Fund \* Cavalcade of Memories, contact me regarding Plan of Action for reports. \*\*\*

Valerie Brown-Debro

[Valerie.debro@yahoo.com](mailto:Valerie.debro@yahoo.com)



,You were recently invited to the 2015-2016 Mission Training Conference and Division Junior Meeting, and conference sessions are filling up quickly!

Dates are below:

October 3, 2015: Indianapolis, Indiana (**Housing Deadline September 9**)  
October 10, 2015: West Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Housing Deadline September 15)  
November 7, 2015: Minneapolis, Minnesota (Housing Deadline October 5)  
January 9, 2016: Atlanta, Georgia (Housing Deadline December 15)  
January 23, 2016: Las Vegas Nevada (Housing Deadline December 21)

**To Register now, click this link:Yes**

**Register now to secure your spot at the conference!** Everyone who registers must have a unique email address - this includes Junior members. If you are registering someone that does not have their own email address, please contact [meetings@alaforveterans.org](mailto:meetings@alaforveterans.org) for instructions.

**To make housing arrangements:**

This year housing requests will be made through your registration process, please be sure to register by the housing deadline found on the registration website, after that time rooms are subject to availability.

For housing information, please click here: [Housing](#)

**Registration Fees:**

Your registration fee includes: materials for the conference, one continental breakfast and one lunch. Register early for a discounted registration fee. Those who register after the deadline or on-site may not be guaranteed all of the materials during the conference.

**For more information, please click the links below:**

[View Event Summary](#)

**Not able** to attend a mission training this year?

Please click this link: [No](#)

By clicking No, that you will no longer receive reminder emails to register.

Have Questions?

Please contact the ALA Event Team at [meetings@alaforveterans.org](mailto:meetings@alaforveterans.org)

[Click here for the event summary](#)

Early Bird Registration and housing reservation are quickly approaching, so Register Today!

[Yes](#), I would like to register.

[No](#), I am not able to attend this year, but keep me in mind for future conferences..

We look forward to hearing from you! If you have any questions, please contact [meetings@alaforveterans.org](mailto:meetings@alaforveterans.org)

**Having trouble with the link?**

Copy and paste the address listed below into your web browser:  
[http://www.cvent.com/d/y-mLS\\_PthkKBKySY9rZ1Bw/y8gp/P1/1Q?](http://www.cvent.com/d/y-mLS_PthkKBKySY9rZ1Bw/y8gp/P1/1Q?)

**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 - 2016**

September 7, 2015	National Grandparents Day
September 11, 2015	Patriot's Day
September 17, 2015	Constitution Day & Citizenship Day
September 18, 2015	Air Force Birthday
September 18, 2015	National POW/MIA Recognition Day
September 13, 2015	Rosh Hashanah
September 25 -27, 2015	Girls State and Chaplains Conferences, Indianapolis, IN
September 27, 2015	Gold Star Mother's Day
October 24 & 25, 2015	Fall Conference, Duluth, Youth Champions Banquet

**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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 Department of Georgia  
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# 2015-2016 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 9, 2015

## MEET YOUR 2015-2016 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE!

**National Chairman**  
Vickie Koutz  
vkoutz@aol.com

**National Vice Chairman**  
Melanie Taylor  
chfslove@aol.com

**Committee Member**  
Lisa Liford  
purses4lisa@yahoo.com

**Committee Member**  
Terri Wallace  
terrideewallace@gmail.com

**Central Division Chairman**  
Diana Sirovina  
sirovina@att.net

**Eastern Division Chairman**  
Tina Washington  
ladytina44@comcast.net

**Northwestern Division  
Chairman**  
Karen Susag  
mksusag@live.com

**Southern Division Chairman**  
Susie Mash  
susie\_mash@hotmail.com

**Western Division Chairman**  
Terri Angell  
terter59@gmail.com

## It's the Little Things that Count

As we kick off the 2016 membership year it is important to remember who we are, what we do and why we matter every time we talk to a new potential member. All those little things really add up!

### Who We Are:

We are nearly 800,000 wives, mothers, daughters, sisters, grandmothers, granddaughters and descendants of veterans who served our great country during times of war. Some of us are veterans ourselves.

### What We Do:

- ★ Help nearly 3 million veterans

- ★ Contribute \$38 million towards veterans and military families
- ★ Volunteer 787,000 hours for active-duty military

### Why We Matter:

American Legion Auxiliary members have volunteered more than 9 million hours for a collective value of service to our veterans, servicemembers and their families of more than \$2.1 billion. We are recognized by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs each year for our outstanding contribution to the quality of life for veterans in VA medical centers.

## 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

### What do units need to do?

- ★ Verify the new member's name
- ★ Submit her application and department dues to your department.
- ★ Indicate on her application that this member is part of the "Honor Our Female Veterans" program

### What do departments need to do?

- ★ Enter the new member into ALAMIS as a pending member. Mark her eligibility as "self" if the new member is eligible in her own right or the appropriate eligibility category.
- ★ Email [membership@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:membership@ALAforVeterans.org) with "Honor Female Veterans" in the subject line. In the body of the email include the member's name, unit number and department.

## Keeping The Promise

Help your Units and Department "Keep the Promise" by hitting your monthly membership Promise Dates!

- |                                 |                              |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ★ September 7, 2015: <b>25%</b> | ★ April 22, 2016: <b>85%</b> |
| ★ October 12, 2015: <b>35%</b>  | ★ May 21, 2016: <b>90%</b>   |
| ★ November 11, 2015: <b>45%</b> | ★ June 14, 2016: <b>95%</b>  |
| ★ December 7, 2015: <b>60%</b>  | ★ July 4, 2016: <b>100%</b>  |
| ★ February 14, 2016: <b>75%</b> | ★ July 30, 2016: <b>102%</b> |
| ★ March 15, 2016: <b>80%</b>    |                              |

Recognize the units in your department who hit their membership promise dates with Promise Date Certificates which are now available on the membership page of national website. Visit [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org) to download the fillable pdf certificate.