

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

A fresh start! This is what the New Year, 2016, brings to each of us! Reminding us as we grace each new day of such awesome wonders. Rekindling those things we strive to make room for in our everyday life, family, friends and work. Truly believing in the works that we do and share with others make a little difference in someone's life, asking nothing in return.

I can without a doubt say that the works of the American Legion Auxiliary does make a difference! The work you do is truly inspiring and it was my personal experience that bore witness to this. It was seen in the eyes of each veteran I had the privilege to speak and or shake hands with.

As I participated in the VA Hospital Tours, in Augusta, GA in December the atmosphere was just a little different. It may have been the information I learned about the research that the Legion Family help to support and the far reaching affect it has. Or it could have been the interaction with the staff and caregivers at the facilities we visited. I know that everyone came away with a new awareness of the continuous support the Legion Family of GA has for the VA. I want to encourage each of you to continuous your financial support as part of the Legion Family. Your contributions help to accomplish so much. I hope in 2016 you take an honest effort to learn more about the VA in the state of Georgia and the works we as part of the Legion Family help support.

My travels in the last 2 months has been encouraging, visiting Units, presenting a New Charter to a Unit and signing off on a new one. This shows the interest in our organization is still strong.

Thanks to our Membership Chairman, Anita Owens, for the work she is doing as we move forward.

As we continue our growth within the Units and Districts there is still more for each of our officers to learn. District / Unit President have been asked to

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communicate with each other. District President you are that link that provides information, encouragement to the Unit Level. Unit President, you provide that same link to the members, this structure is so vital to our organization. Committee Chairman have been asked to also reach out to Unit/ District about reporting. If these steps have not been done, now is the time to start. I understand that the new forms may or may not be on the website, however, the information being submitted is still the same. Now is the time to prepare!

A big "thanks" to all the chairmen who were able to submit a Mid-Year Report!

Thanks to Patty and Krista who has been such a help in keeping me on the direct path. There is a lot of behind the scene work that goes on and they definitely keep me informed.

We have some exciting quests coming to Georgia soon. Our National President, Sharon Conatser, visitation has been scheduled May 10th - 12th. We will also have our Southern Division VP, Flora J. Craig visiting us during our Spring Conference, March 17th- 20th. And of course! You definitely, don't want to miss the National Commander, Dale Barnett., Homecoming Celebration.

Ladies I hope that you will be as excited as I am as we move forth in 2016, your participation will be greatly needed in all these events.

I am asking everyone to **mark your calendar!**

Please remember "the theme" for the year, because it's all about the VETERANS!

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

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 17 - 20, 2016 at the Sonesta at Gwinnett Place. **The DEC will meet @ 6:00 pm on Thursday March 17th.** 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 18th. We are planning on having an Auxiliary College on 19th, finishing up on the 20th after the Poppy dedication service. We will be having the National Southern Division Vice President Flora Jean Craig visiting with us.

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 14th, with the goal set at 75%. We are now at 57.99% I know we can do this.

Membership Ideas/Tips:

A new year is almost upon us and one way to be more creative in 2016 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.

For God and Country

1st Vice President / Leadership

By Miriam Stein, Department 1st Vice President

Ladies, it is time to regroup and get started again.

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and a Happy New Year. I wished there had been more leadership mid- year reports sent but I am hoping for more annual reports.

The leaders of the Units need to help the membership chairman with membership. We all have to work together to have a successful Unit. It takes everyone working hard on membership. It only takes a little of your time if everyone works together. I am very glad that this year we have revitalized on Unit and charter one new Unit. It doesn't seem like the year is half over but we can't stop working on our membership and for our veterans. Come on For-get-me-knots we need to bloom again for the spring.

For God and Country, Miriam Stein 1st Vice President

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!

2nd Vice President/Membership

By Anita Owens, Department 2nd Vice President

I hope each and every one of you enjoyed your Christmas and New Year's Holidays and that Santa brought you everything that you had asked for. December was a bad month for us getting in our memberships so here I am again begging each of you to go out there and see what we can accomplish in January. February 14th is our new goal of 75% and I know we can reach it if we really try hard.

Please see if you can get a committee in your Unit and set up a day to call all members who have not renewed their memberships either this year and or last year and see if you can get them to renew. Explain what has been happening in your Unit and the fun they have been missing from not being a part of it. Also, not all members can be participants but they can still be a part of serving their veterans by just being a member. This date needs to be early in January so that the renewals can get into you and then your Unit forward to Department. They can also renew online if they so desire which will get to National faster and go toward our goal.

We now have four Units at goal and I am so proud of Units 106 (Trenton), 336 (Lakeland), 502 (Bainbridge) and 294 (Powder Springs). Let's add so more to these numbers. At this time we need 1,965 to meet the 75% goal on Valentine's Day. We have been advised by National that these Units who have obtained their 100% membership goal by December 31st will receive their \$100 plus a 100% flag pole ribbon in January and that the checks **must** be cashed within 90 days or they will be void and will not be reissued.

Keep up the good work and lets continue to burst open the forget me nots into memberships.

God Bless

Anitia



Historian

By Jane Lawrence, Department Historian

I hope everyone had a Happy New Year. It is hard to believe that 2015 is gone and we are now on our way in 2016. I would like to say Thank You to all the Unit historians who sent in a mid-year report so that I could make the National mid-year report on time.

Now is a good time to start your History book by getting the first few pages completed according to the guidelines. National Headquarters has a sample on how to prepare your book. If you have any questions or concerns please call or e-mail me.

Please continue to keep your Unit history before we know it we will be giving out awards for the outstanding History Books.

By working together, 2016 should be a very successful year.

For God and Country.

PERCENTAGE GOALS FOR MEMBERSHIP

2015-2016

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

Chaplain

By Valerie Brown-Debro, Department Chaplain



Auxiliary Family as we prepare for the New Year, let us be ever mindful for those who sacrifice their lives for us to be free. Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor, also the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as he best can, the same cause.

Continue to pray for those who are in Leadership elected and appointed Officials May God order their steps to direct us into the 2016 Year. Sending Blessing to every family, Veterans, Community, and Nation. As we cast our cares on the Lord, we know that He hears our cry and deliver us from the darkness as we see a brighter future in Him.

God Bless & Keep Us in Jesus Name Amen!

Valerie Brown-Debro- Chaplain

ALAMIS PROGRAM ACCESS for UNITS--- Membership

We need to get your form and information so that we can get started training. The fee is \$10 per year per person (2 per Unit). This is the fee National charges. We would like to setup a training class by mid- January. Forms will be on the website or call the Department for copies. Due to the enforced rules all forms must be completed and signed by 5 current Unit Officer. Please let us know ASAP.

Eighth District is in need of any poppies you may have to use for the Poppy Anchor. If you have any and would like to give them to Eighth District please contact Jo Mason, Poppy Anchor Construction Chairman

*****VA Bingo Information*****

To All, the other day a meeting was held in Voluntary service to discuss a change in the way bingo prizes are given out. From here on in, Please advise all posts and squadrons that money for bingo winnings cannot be given out when bingo is done in the CLC; instead they would rather that coupon books from the canteen be used for the prizes.

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

Register now! If your interested in attending the Mission Training please visit our National Website www.alaforveterans.org

IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE READ!!!

EINs - IRS Form 990 Compliance: Troubleshooting & Navigating the IRS

Trouble filing your 990 for your unit, district, county or council?
Had your tax exempt status revoked and don't know what to do?
Just found out that your Unit has been filing jointly with The American Legion Post?

Don't worry! We can help!

American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters staff members, Kelly Harrier and Sara Riegel, will be available both before and after the Atlanta, GA Mission Training Sessions to assist you with IRS Compliance issues, tax exempt status revocation/reinstatement, guidance on filing 990's, and general inquiries regarding IRS compliance.

Where:

Atlanta Airport Marriott, 4711 Best Rd.,
Atlanta, GA 30337

Room:

Boardroom 222

When:

Friday, January 8, 2016, 6 - 8 pm

Saturday, January 9, 2016, 5 - 8 pm

No appointment necessary.

Individuals will be helped on a first come, first serve basis.

For more information, contact:

Kelly Harrier

Membership Manager

American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE READ!!!



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

2016

January 1, 2016

January 9, 2016

January 18, 2016

February 21-24, 2016

March 17 - 20, 2016

June 12-17, 2016

June 23 - 25, 2016

Aug 26 - Sept1, 2016

New Years Day

Mission Training /Division Jr.
Meeting Atlanta

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Washington DC Conference

Spring Conference/College - Duluth

Girls State, GSU, Statesboro

Department Convention Duluth, GA

98th National Convention Cincinnati, Ohio



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