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**ABOUT:** *Georgia On My Mind* is a monthly publication presented by the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Georgia on or about the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Did you find a mistake in the newsletter? Or do you want to submit information for next month (due on the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month)? If yes, you can send your request and information to either [Department@alageorgia.com](mailto:Department@alageorgia.com) or to [Public Relations@ALAGeorgia.com](mailto:PublicRelations@ALAGeorgia.com).

## NEWS TO USE

### NATIONAL CONVENTION

August 24 – 28 in New Orleans – it is approaching fast. Pre-convention Meetings are underway. If you would like to see what is going on in your ALA MISSION area, everyone can watch the video replays of the pre-convention committee meetings at this link. <https://member.legion-aux.org/Virtual-Pre-Con-Meetings> The Convention Agenda, and information can be found at <https://www.legion-aux.org/meetings/national-convention>; the agenda is subject to change.

### GEORGIA FALL CONFERENCE

Plan now. The Fall Conference will begin with the DEC meeting on Thursday, October 24 and conclude with the Memorial on Sunday, October 27. The Conference will again be held at the Sonesta Duluth. Mark your calendars and stay tuned to this link for more information from the Department Legion: <https://georgialeghion.org/events/departement-of-georgia-fall-conference/> Please plan to attend the banquet for networking and showcasing of our Children & Youth programs.

### LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

They have started! Register for the September session. See Gail's Leadership Column for the link and schedule of sessions.

### MEMBERSHIP GOALS

Goals for 2024-2025 were issued on August 10. See Pam's Membership column for more information.

### SEPTEMBER

September is a jam packed month. Check the Dates to Note so that your unit does not miss any special dates.

### LEAD THE WAY...RENEW

All officers, board members, committee chairs at all levels (Department, District, and Unit) should set the example and renew membership for 2025 as soon as possible. Lead the Way! Let's DO THIS!

## 2024-2025 LEADERSHIP

President..... Cheryl Waybright  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President ..... Gail Ramey  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President ..... Pam Eckler  
 Historian..... Debbie Hoopingarner  
 Chaplain ..... Gloria Chambers  
 Secretary/Treasurer..... Patty Hawkins  
 NEC..... Susan Hall  
 NEC Alternate ..... Pat Morgan

### Sergeants at Arms

Captain ..... Melanie Eckler  
                                  Cricket Agee, Melinda Gaskins  
                                  Lindsey Coats, Melissa Patten  
 Department Page..... Thea Fultz

## MISSION COMMITTEES

Veterans Affairs ..... Mirima Stein  
 National Security ..... Laura Miller  
 Children & Youth ..... Gabriele Barnett  
 Americanism ..... Kris Ann Alexander  
 Community Service..... Sharon Wilson  
 Education ..... Dr. Cindy Swartz  
 Girls State..... Deedy Harrell  
 Junior Activities..... Kalyn Slagle  
 Poppy ..... Cathy Hedges

## SUPPORT COMMITTEES

Awards & Recognition . Linda Brock  
 Convention..... 9th District  
 Credentials..... Phyllis Jones &  
                                  Sabrina Brown Putney, Co-Chairs  
 Finance..... Susan Hall, Chair  
                                  Ruth Ann Shelby & Sarah Zingarelli  
 Human Resources..... Sheila Tinsley, Chair  
                                  Gabriele Barnett & Pam Eckler  
 Leadership/Yearbook... Gail Ramey  
 Membership ..... Pam Eckler  
 Past President Parley & Member of the Year  
                                  Cheryl Jackson-Sinkler  
 Poppy Anchor ..... 11th District  
                                  Launching..... 1st District, Unit 184  
                                  Orders ..... Patty Hawkins  
 Public Relations..... Courtney Waybright  
 Resolutions ..... Dr. Joann Meadows  
 Risk & Compliance ..... Kathy Merritt, Chair  
                                  Anita Owens & Lisa Marie Papp  
 Scrapbook ..... Melinda Gaskins  
 Unit Development & Revitalization  
                                  Pam Eckler & Gail Ramey, Co-Chairs  
                                  Jennie Chandler



Cheryl Waybright  
President 2024-2025

AMERICAN  
LEGION  
AUXILIARY



#AMPUPMISSION

**And Boom! Just Like that, we are Amping Up ALA in Georgia!**

Thank you to everyone who came to the **Organization Meeting** on Saturday, August 10. Your enthusiasm and dedication to the ALA and our department is encouraging and the comradery on display is heartwarming. I am overwhelmed with your support, and I thank each of you for allowing me to serve you this year.

Question: Has your unit started the Unit's **History** book and documenting member Impact hours/spending for 2024-2025? The "Reporting Year" began on May 1 and runs through April 30, 2025. District Presidents need info from Unit Presidents so they can submit their quarterly reports this week! ☺ (*OOOPS, is that a surprise?*)

Please tune into the first columns by our Historian and Chaplain, both have wonderful words of wisdom. Also, Secretary/Treasurer Hawkins shares key information.

The delegation from Georgia to the **National Convention** is ready to storm New Orleans. *Please pray however, for no storms!* Delegates and others from GA are participating in the Pre-Convention meetings. One GA student was recognized as an Americanism Essay Contest winner and three won the Poppy Poster Contest Department of Georgia was named for the second straight year as the best Department Poppy Program in the Southern Division. **BOOM!**

Finance and Risk & Compliance are digging into some nitty-gritty that hurts everyone's brains but will benefit the organization. From our insurance policies to phone and computer systems to cash flow to unit and district compliance – the teams are coming together to cultivate greater organizational strength. Yes, it takes time!

*Continued...*

## STAY CONNECTED

### DEPARTMENT WEBSITE:

<https://www.aladeptga.com/>

- Need a form?  
<https://www.aladeptga.com/forms-1> [Updated Forms Coming Soon]
- Need to find a department leader?  
[https://www.aladeptga.com/about\\_us](https://www.aladeptga.com/about_us)
- or department committee chair?  
<https://www.aladeptga.com/committee-chairpersons> [Updated List Coming Soon]
- ...or Department Governing Documents?  
<https://www.aladeptga.com/governing-documents>

### GEORGIA GIRLS STATE

[www.georgiagirlsstate.org/](http://www.georgiagirlsstate.org/)

### DEPARTMENT PUBLIC FACEBOOK PAGES

Follow both!

<https://www.facebook.com/ALADeptofGA>

<https://www.facebook.com/ALAGeorgiaPresident/>

### DEPARTMENT PRIVATE FACEBOOK GROUP

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/alaga>

In this group you can ask questions and post information about your unit and districts.

### DEPARTMENT EMAILS

Secretary/Treas.: [secamlegaux@bellsouth.net](mailto:secamlegaux@bellsouth.net)

Membership Clerk: [amlegaux@bellsouth.net](mailto:amlegaux@bellsouth.net)

President: [Cheryl@ALAGeorgia.com](mailto:Cheryl@ALAGeorgia.com)

Leadership: [Leadership@ALAGeorgia.com](mailto:Leadership@ALAGeorgia.com)

Membership: [Membership@ALAGeorgia.com](mailto:Membership@ALAGeorgia.com)

Historian: [Historian@ALAGeorgia.com](mailto:Historian@ALAGeorgia.com)

Chaplain: [Chaplain@ALAGeorgia.com](mailto:Chaplain@ALAGeorgia.com)

PR: [Public Relations@ALAGeorgia.com](mailto:PublicRelations@ALAGeorgia.com)

Newsletter: [Department@ALAGeorgia.com](mailto:Department@ALAGeorgia.com)

### NATIONAL ALA TOOLS

American Legion Auxiliary National Website

<https://www.legion-aux.org/home>

ALA MEMBER Website

<https://member.legion-aux.org/>

ALA BLOG <https://www.legion-aux.org/blog>

**Serving the ALA Mission through Our Programs – Program Engagement Plans:**

[https://member.legion-](https://member.legion-aux.org/member/program-engagement-plans)

[aux.org/member/program-engagement-plans](https://member.legion-aux.org/member/program-engagement-plans)

...from previous page.

The DEC met by Zoom on July 25<sup>th</sup> to conduct business that will propel our efforts forward including approving a Membership Processing and Reporting Policy. While geared to Department, Units should have awareness of the contents. The Department's Governing Documents can be found at <https://www.aladeptga.com/governing-documents>

The “How To” start a new unit guide is available on the GA ALA website. New unit organizers are leveraging the content as they begin their journey of establishing new units. The Georgia guide is based on National ALA best practices updated in September 2023. A team of new GA presidents provided feedback in July 2023, and *National listened!* Shout out to Jenny Chandler (Chickamauga), Melinda Gaskins (Jefferson), Gloria Chambers (Folkston), 22-24 7<sup>th</sup> District President Cindy Schwartz and Department Secretary Patty Hawkins for slogging through the detail to bring this to life. Also, units that are reforming or who have new leaders may benefit from the tips included.

The Department is revitalizing the **Junior Program** this year. New Committee Chairperson Kalyn Slagle, and her mentor Latrisha Linaweaver are planning now. Check out the rearview mirror on the last page. 2025 Junior Camp registration info is coming soon. We have 23 units with 5 or more Junior Members and Department-wide, 334 Juniors. Let's get them hooked on the MISSION while they are young.

The **PR team** has a hard act to follow thanks to the dedication of Amy Loudermilk and Pam Eckler last year. Aside from what you have seen in the updated Newsletter format and the President's FB page, there is more in store as PR gets amped up to promote the amazing things our department is doing. Please contribute your unit & district amazing activities in our quest to #AmpUpMission; the email address is over there! ←

**Please join me in thanking all the people who contributed to this newsletter.** Their enthusiasm is unmatched and humbling. Please leverage what they have shared with you and hit the links to go deeper in your ALA journey.

Remember to schedule some fun activities at your meetings and mission programs – the more fun, more members come back for more engagement! Let's Do THIS! #AmpUpMission

**Cheryl Waybright**

404-625-6708 ★ [Cheryl@ALAGeorgia.com](mailto:Cheryl@ALAGeorgia.com)

PS: I have an open door (email or phone) policy. Reach out.

## DATES TO NOTE

**First of Every Month – BE THE ONE Day**

**EVERY FRIDAY IS RED Shirt Friday** (Remembering Everyone Deployed) Wear a red shirt!

### August 2024

16..... National Airborne Day (2002)

**NATIONAL CONVENTION 23<sup>rd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>**

29..... Marine Corps Reserve Birthday (1916)

### September 2024

**National Suicide Prevention Month:**

<https://veteran.com/suicide-prevention-month/>

**National Preparedness Month:**

<https://www.ready.gov/september>

**National Service Dog Month:**

<https://www.operationwearehere.com/MilitaryServiceDogs.html>

2..... Labor Day

2..... Victory Over Japan (V-J) Day (U.S. 1945)

**11..... Patriot Day**

**and National Day of Service & Remembrance**

**14 .....Leadership Workshop Unit 192 Evans**

15..... Sons of the American Legion Birthday (1932)

15..... District President and Department Committee Chair **Exploring Session #1.**  
2:30pm Zoom. Click [here](#) for info.

17..... Constitution Day (1787) (*Constitution Week 17-23*)

18..... Air Force (USAF) Birthday (1947)

18..... Air National Guard Birthday (1947)

20..... National POW/MIA Recognition Day (1979)

**26 .....ALA DEC Meeting (Zoom) 7:15 pm**

26..... World Maritime Day

**27 ..... Poppy became official flower of TAL (1920)**

**29 .....Gold Star Mother's & Family Day**

29..... VFW Day (1899)

### October 2024

**Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

9..... Columbus Day

13..... US Navy Birthday

**19 .....Leadership Workshop Unit 184 Thunderbolt**

26..... National Day of the Deployed

**24 .....ALA GA DEC Meeting In Person 6:00 pm**

**25-27 .FALL CONFERENCE**

27..... [Navy Day](#) (click the link to learn more)

National Veterans Small Business Week 10/29-11/2

31..... Halloween

**November 2024** (Click the hyperlinks for more info.)

**National Veterans & Military Family Month**

**Warrior Care Month**

**National Family Caregivers Month**

3..... Daylight Savings Time Ends

10..... Marine Corps Day/Birthday

11..... Veterans Day

11..... Armistice/Remembrance Day

## Secretary & Treasurer

*Patty Hawkins*

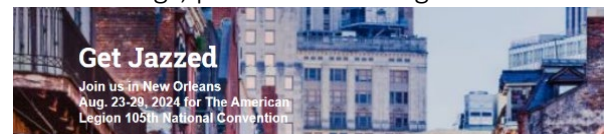


2023-2024 Year is winding down with the National Convention about a week away.

**WOW!! How time flies.**

As we gather with old friends, we have a chance to meet new ones at the National Convention in New Orleans. The National Convention is a wonderful opportunity to network with ALA leaders from all over the country and learn new things about this awesome organization.

National has been hosting Zoom Pre-Convention Committee Meetings for all who want to attend. They will be winding down early next week with the last one on Tuesday, August 20. Thanks to all who participated and official department representatives to the meetings, please do not forget to send in your report to the office (my attention).



The National Convention is also a wonderful time to build relationships with the members from Georgia in attendance.

The Delegates to the National Convention from the Department of Georgia are: Out -going President Cheryl Jackson Sinkler, Department Secretary, Patty Hawkins, Incoming President Cheryl Waybright, Susan Hall by virtue of her position as National Executive Committeewoman is a Delegate at Large. Also, Ashley Henry (3<sup>rd</sup> District), Shirley Hayes (4<sup>th</sup> District), Thea Fultz (5<sup>th</sup> District), Kelli McIver (6<sup>th</sup> District), Gloria Chambers (8<sup>th</sup> District), Nancy Kunz (9<sup>th</sup> District), Anita Owens (10<sup>th</sup> District), Joyce Jenkins (12<sup>th</sup> District) and Robin Lnenicka (5<sup>th</sup> District). Lavette Ray (8<sup>th</sup> District) is the selected Department Page. All Delegates and the Page are reimbursed per the Department National Convention Policy for the one position they hold. (Day 1 - \$50.00, Day 2- \$75.00, Day 3- \$75.00, Day 4 - \$75.00.) The Alternate Delegates are Pam Eckler (9<sup>th</sup> District) and Cathy Hedges (10<sup>th</sup> District) and if called to replace a delegate for the day, they will receive reimbursement at the same rate scheduled for by day for Delegates.

**Let Us Go, Learn and Have a Fun time carrying out our Mission.**

*Please keep reading on the next page!*

**#AMPUPMISSION**

The American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Georgia

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[www.aladepgtga.com](http://www.aladepgtga.com)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/alaga](https://www.facebook.com/groups/alaga)

2024-2025 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHERYL WAYBRIGHT



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## ALA ACADEMY

On July 25, 2024, the National ALA Executive Director presented a live learning session about Tax-Exempt Status. If you did not attend, the session and resources are available to you on the ALA Academy.

<https://member.legion-aux.org/member/online-training>



### ALA ACADEMY

#### Tax-Exempt Status: Revocation & Reinstatement

- What happens when your ALA entity has lost its tax-exempt status?
- What it means to have your tax-exempt status revoked.
- What options you have for reinstatement.
- Guidance to apply for tax-exempt reinstatement with the IRS.
- Best practices to maintain tax-exempt status.
- What resources to access to assist you with the reinstatement process.

Not so fun fact: About half of Georgia's units have lost their tax-exempt status. Same nationally. You heard a lot of this last year in the #AmpUpLeadership programming and in 2024-2025 it is on the National stage to increase our awareness and our compliance.

#### Resources:

##### Revocation & Reinstatement Webinar PowerPoint

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:8ca7502c-2dcb-4cd3-b11b-2104c45c3d65>

##### ALA IRS "Cliff Notes"

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:b23585e1-db8f-4eca-a7b4-6996755ab2bf>

##### Important Compliance Information

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:f4f0b4d2-87bb-461a-867c-c4f256360d31>

##### Important Compliance Resources

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:67c7e057-56fa-4ade-86cb-62ca9ac78a02>

##### Supplemental Instructions

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:f30bf595-1181-47d3-9890-49a4f35e20b1>

## Important IRS Tax Information

Do not forget! If your Unit's (or District's) fiscal year ended on June 30 (based on your IRS EIN Letter) your team should be getting ready to audit and submit your IRS 990 on time. It is due no later than November 15, 2024. If you do not know the date of your unit's tax period, you can go to <https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/> and enter the EIN number. Click on the items that come up and you will see the tax period.

It is especially important that each year the unit/district makes sure the correct person is listed with the IRS as the contact for the unit/district. This MUST be done either online when the unit files the 990 or by submitting IRS Form 8822-B containing the updated information.

We are finding that units/districts are not doing this. This inaction is resulting in the IRS contacting people who are no longer leaders, members, and in some cases no longer alive.

Another thing to do is check and make sure your Georgia Secretary of State registration is up to date. And do not forget to mail a copy of your IRS 990 to the Georgia Revenue Department.

I have it on good authority that our newly formed Risk & Compliance team is coming up to speed and will be a valuable resource to our department this administrative year.

## Seriously – COMPLIANCE MATTERS!

Last, the 2024-2025 Newsletter will be published monthly on or about the 15th. As we move forward with a mindset on mission, we would like to have districts, committees, and yes, units share the great stuff that is happening around the department. The 5<sup>th</sup> of the month is the deadline for submitting articles.

Thank you, unit leaders and members, for all you do!

Patty Hawkins

Secretary & Treasurer Department of Georgia  
678-289-8446 ★ [secamlegaux@bellsouth.net](mailto:secamlegaux@bellsouth.net)

PS: For a bit of history about the ALA National Conventions held in New Orleans, read this blog post: *Coming together: A history of the ALA's conventions in New Orleans* found at this link:

<https://www.legion-aux.org/Blog/Coming-together-A-history-of-the-ALA%E2%80%99s-conventions>

## LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

September 14 ..... Unit 192, Evans  
 Register: <https://forms.gle/4ELygU72d6myyrko6>  
 October 19 ..... Unit 184, Thunderbolt  
 January 11 ..... Unit 233, Loganville  
 February 8 ..... Unit 160, Smyrna  
 March 8 ..... Unit 172, Warner Robins  
 April 5 ..... District 7 (Unit TBD)

Registration begins at 9:30 am with a  
 10:00 am start time.

*We will conduct mini workshops at the Fall  
 and Spring Conferences. Watch for details  
 in September when the preliminary  
 Conference Agenda is distributed.*

## NATIONAL MISSION DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

Please make plans now to attend the  
**National Mission Development Training.**  
 The closest to Georgia is in Nashville on  
 Saturday, November 16, 2024. This is a  
 fantastic opportunity to gain experience  
 from National leaders and network with  
 other leaders around the nation. The link  
 for the details is [https://member.legion-  
 aux.org/meetings/mission-training/](https://member.legion-aux.org/meetings/mission-training/)  
 Other Dates and Locations are November  
 16<sup>th</sup> Denver; January 25<sup>th</sup> Des Moines, and  
 February 1 in Las Vegas or Boston.

## First Vice President – Leadership Gail Ramey

Hello Everyone,

We are off to a good start. We had our first  
**Leadership Workshop** on Saturday, August  
 3<sup>rd</sup> hosted by Unit 127, Sugar Hill. I believe  
 everyone who attended learned one new thing. That is my  
 philosophy, and I have told members of my Unit that for several  
 years. No matter how many years you have been in the Auxiliary  
 you can always learn something new. The picture below is  
 “after,” and everyone was still smiling!

We try to make the workshops both fun and educational. We  
 had a Legionnaire join us for part of the day on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. If any  
 of the Legionnaires or SAL members are interested in learning  
 more about the ALA, attending a workshop is a terrific way. The  
 list of the upcoming workshops is to the left. Please remember,  
 every workshop is open to anyone who wants to attend no  
 matter where you live.

**National Mission Development Training** is coming up. See the  
 details and list of dates to the left. Registration “should” open  
 after the National Convention. Nashville sold out last year!

Do not forget about the free **ALA Academy** training. It is on the  
 National website, log in - [https://member.legion-  
 aux.org/member/online-training](https://member.legion-aux.org/member/online-training)

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. If  
 you call and I do not answer, please leave a message and I will  
 get back to you. You can also email me at  
[leadership@alageorgia.com](mailto:leadership@alageorgia.com)

### Gail Ramey

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Leadership, Department of Georgia  
 770-262-2524 ★ [leadership@ALAGeorgia.com](mailto:leadership@ALAGeorgia.com)



## MEMBERSHIP GOALS

1ST DISTRICT 9 Units				
Unit	Unit Name	Goal	Actual	% Met
90	Statesboro	27	0	0.00%
116	Sylvania	12	0	0.00%
135	Savannah	54	0	0.00%
154	Tybee Island	200	0	0.00%
168	Hinesville	49	0	0.00%
184	Thunderbolt	103	0	0.00%
209	Springfield	26	0	0.00%
321	Midway (East Liberty Co)	14	0	0.00%
500	Savannah	22	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>507</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

2ND DISTRICT 8 Units				
Unit	Unit Name	Goal	Actual	% Met
30	Albany	43	0	0.00%
122	Cairo	13	0	0.00%
141	Camilla	10	0	0.00%
144	Pelham	15	0	0.00%
502	Bainbridge	20	0	0.00%
512	Albany	95	0	0.00%
519	Thomasville	26	0	0.00%
544	Cairo	13	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>235</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

3RD DISTRICT 5 Units				
Unit	Unit Name	Goal	Actual	% Met
75	Lagrange	12	0	0.00%
191	Ellaville	20	0	0.00%
267	Columbus	51	0	0.00%
333	Columbus	38	0	0.00%
558	Americus	23	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>144</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

4TH DISTRICT 7 Units				
Unit	Unit Name	Goal	Actual	% Met
50	Peachtree City	61	0	0.00%
51	College Park	17	0	0.00%
66	Decatur	69	0	0.00%
105	Fayetteville	24	0	0.00%
197	Pike County	10	0	0.00%
207	Tucker	15	0	0.00%
258	Jonesboro	144	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>340</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

5TH DISTRICT 14 Units				
Unit	Unit Name	Goal	Actual	% Met
1	Atlanta	11	0	0.00%
29	Marietta	411	0	0.00%
57	Newnan	69	0	0.00%
70	Villa Rica	136	0	0.00%
111	Dallas	95	0	0.00%
143	Carrollton	47	0	0.00%
145	Douglasville	59	0	0.00%
160	Smyrna	114	0	0.00%
216	Austell (Mickey Cochran)	24	0	0.00%
264	Mableton	129	0	0.00%
291	Atlanta	31	0	0.00%
294	Powder Springs	65	0	0.00%
296	Marietta	80	0	0.00%
304	North Cobb	64	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>1,335</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

## Second Vice President - Membership *Pam Eckler*



The 2024-2025 goals have been given to the District Presidents, so it is time to begin working on these goals. One way to do this is for all Unit leadership members to renew their membership for 2025 now. Our National organization has been accepting renewals online since July. We must start leading by example to gain the respect of our members.

Once you receive your Unit's goal for the 2024-2025 year, if you have questions, please feel free to reach out to me. I tried to make it as easy as possible for every Unit in our Department to make goal. We are striving for all units to be at 85% or higher of their membership goal by Ground Hog's Day (February 2<sup>nd</sup>).

To assist all Units, I will be contacting everyone in Unit 400 to do a "buddy check". While I am speaking with them, I am going to ask if they would like contact information for Units that are close to where they live. I am hoping we can bring Unit 400 members back into the fold, getting them involved in the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

I hope all of you know how much I appreciate all the arduous work you have done in the past and will continue to do to build our Department's membership. I am proud to be your Membership Chair this year and will try to do everything I can to help you succeed.

### Pam Eckler

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Membership, Department of Georgia  
670-780-8622 ★ [membership@ALAGeorgia.com](mailto:membership@ALAGeorgia.com)

6TH DISTRICT 8 Units				
Unit	Unit Name	Goal	Actual	% Met
3	Macon	34	0	0.00%
6	Milledgeville	66	0	0.00%
71	Wilcox Co	21	0	0.00%
76	Ft. Valley	20	0	0.00%
126	Eastman	11	0	0.00%
172	Warner Robins	114	0	0.00%
523	Milledgeville	42	0	0.00%
594	Warner Robins	66	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>374</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>



## 2025 MEMBERSHIP GOALS CONTINUED

7TH DISTRICT		14 Units		
Unit	Unit Name	Goal	Actual	% Met
5	Rome	42	0	0.00%
12	Rockmart	43	0	0.00%
40	Ringgold	25	0	0.00%
42	Cartersville	74	0	0.00%
47	Calhoun	87	0	0.00%
52	Rome	18	0	0.00%
86	Cedartown	23	0	0.00%
106	Trenton	40	0	0.00%
112	Dalton	73	0	0.00%
136	Lindale	31	0	0.00%
167	Chatsworth	71	0	0.00%
214	Ft. Oglethorpe	29	0	0.00%
217	Chickamauga	19	0	0.00%
506	Rome	18	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>593</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

9TH DISTRICT		16 Units		
Unit	Unit Name	Goal	Actual	% Met
7	Gainesville	40	0	0.00%
16	Cleveland	20	0	0.00%
23	Hiawassee	74	0	0.00%
45	Canton	50	0	0.00%
82	Ellijay	95	0	0.00%
84	Habersham County	13	0	0.00%
121	Blairsville	22	0	0.00%
127	Sugar Hill	260	0	0.00%
201	Alpharetta	160	0	0.00%
220	Clayton	11	0	0.00%
232	Snellville	58	0	0.00%
239	Dahlonega	42	0	0.00%
247	Dawsonville	17	0	0.00%
248	McCaysville	17	0	0.00%
251	Duluth	154	0	0.00%
534	Buford	22	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>1,055</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

11TH DISTRICT		10 Units		
Unit	Unit Name	Goal	Actual	% Met
63	Augusta	42	0	0.00%
178	Augusta	116	0	0.00%
192	Evans	160	0	0.00%
205	Augusta	39	0	0.00%
235	Augusta	24	0	0.00%
270	Waynesboro	13	0	0.00%
312	Thomson	23	0	0.00%
505	Augusta	28	0	0.00%
576	Thomson	10	0	0.00%
597	Lincolnton	17	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>472</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

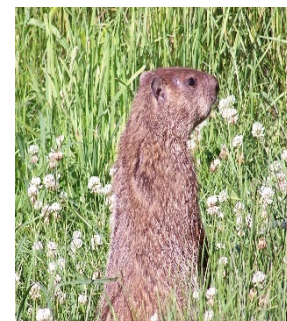
Headquarters		0 Units		
Unit	Unit Name	Goal	Actual	% Met
400	Headquarters	144	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>144</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

8TH DISTRICT		8 Units		
Unit	Unit Name	Goal	Actual	% Met
9	Brunswick	34	0	0.00%
80	Mcrae-Helena	10	0	0.00%
130	Folkston	14	0	0.00%
137	Darian	29	0	0.00%
311	Jesup	10	0	0.00%
313	Vidalia	24	0	0.00%
511	Kingsland	10	0	0.00%
517	Waycross	19	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>150</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

10TH DISTRICT		13 Units		
Unit	Unit Name	Goal	Actual	% Met
14	Elberton	10	0	0.00%
32	Covington	50	0	0.00%
56	Jefferson	37	0	0.00%
64	Monroe	60	0	0.00%
77	Conyers	39	0	0.00%
109	Hartwell	15	0	0.00%
110	Monticello	10	0	0.00%
123	Lexington	49	0	0.00%
163	Statham	75	0	0.00%
233	Loganville	124	0	0.00%
332	Social Circle	18	0	0.00%
531	Monroe	10	0	0.00%
583	Eatonton	75	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>572</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

12TH DISTRICT		5 Units		
Unit	Unit Name	Goal	Actual	% Met
13	Valdosta	52	0	0.00%
21	Tifton	10	0	0.00%
336	Lakeland	35	0	0.00%
515	Douglas	50	0	0.00%
536	Fitzgerald	22	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>169</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

- Check out the new 2024-2025 Department Membership Extravaganza Awards at <https://www.aladepgtga.com/forms-1>
- Other Membership forms are at the same link.





## #AMPUPMISSION ALA QUIZ: GA HISTORY ANSWERS

The winner is our NEC, Susan Hall!

Here are the answers.

- 1 The two people from GA that were ALA National President are Lucy Ficklen (Mr. Boyce) 1928-1929 and Mildred Kelly (M J. Pat) 1957-1958.
- 2 Mrs. Frank Fleming was the first ALA Department of Georgia President.
- 3 In 2019, the ALA voted to allow men to join the American Legion Auxiliary.
- 4 The 1st National American Legion Auxiliary convention was held in Kansas City, MO, November 1-2, 1921.
- 5 Twelve (12) districts are currently (2024) in the Department of Georgia.
- 6 "Shoot for the Stars" was the Department President theme of Susan Hall 2021-2022.
- 7 The National Award for Department Senior History Book is the Toomey Award which came at the behest of the Department of Georgia in 1924, named in honor of one of their distinguished members, Maude Lynch Toomey.
- 8 The Auxiliary was incorporated under the laws of Indiana on 11/11/1932.
- 9 As of March 1, of this year, (2024) 120 units plus Department Unit 400 were registered in the Department of GA.
- 10 Deedy Harrell was elected President of the Department of Georgia in 1993.
- 11 "Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion" was the original name of the American Legion Auxiliary.
- 12 The American Legion Auxiliary has been around since 1919. In 2022, the ALA introduced the new word mark, brand mark and issued guidelines of the use of them and the ALA Emblem.
- 13 Past Department President's Anita Owens' pin in 2017-2018, had a bumble bee on it.

### Historian

*Debbie Hoopingarner*



Hello to all ALA members.

I look forward to working with all Unit and District Historians during the coming year.

We will be working to preserve a record of our accomplishments, experiences and even lessons learned from our mistakes. We leave these as a gift to future generations to remember those who have gone before and provide them with information they can utilize to create their own history.

I hope you have each started your own narrative over the past few months. A good start is to begin with either National Poppy Day or Memorial Day. What did your unit/district do? Who was involved? Where was it held? Did you accomplish your goal? Add statistics (number attending, number served, amount spent, amount earned). Do not limit yourself to strictly unit events, Legion Family events are a good source too as long as the Auxiliary is taking an active part in the event. Do not forget to include your mistakes as documenting them will help you to not make the same mistake again. Everything is a learning experience.

Reach out to others for information and photos. You cannot be everywhere. Make it easier by writing a draft for each month. Visit [www.aladeptga.com/forms-1](http://www.aladeptga.com/forms-1). "History Senior & Junior Rules" and "Historian Annual Report (+Cavalcade of Memories)" will help guide you on your journey. Join the Georgia Historian Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/georgiahistorians> and [www.facebook.com/groups/ALAHistorians](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAHistorians).

Reach out to me if you have any questions. I will be happy to help you.

Lastly, please share some of your events with me. I too am putting a history together, the Department of Georgia History 2024-2025. This includes you! So, I am asking all District and Unit Presidents and Historians to contribute information to my endeavor.

**Debbie Hoopingarner**

Historian, Department of Georgia

317-753-3394 [Historian@alageorgia.com](mailto:Historian@alageorgia.com)

## AMERICANISM



Thank you all for your participation in our Americanism Program in 2023-2024 and for your reports and photos. Georgia has an Essay Contest winner in Class IV, Noah G. from Eatonton and a student at Georgia Military College Preparatory School in Milledgeville, GA. He will receive his award from National in September. Thank you to Joan Mayotte from Morris-Little Unit 6 Milledgeville for submitting Noah's essay.

Thank you to Nancye Glenn from Unit 233 Loganville for your outstanding efforts and submitting essays from 5 different schools after judging from 110 essays that you collected. Your commitment to our Americanism Program is greatly appreciated.

I look forward to being the Department Americanism Chair for 2024-2025 and hearing from Units on your projects. Please start getting into your schools and scouting units now to spread the wonderful information about this program. See these links for ideas:

<https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/americanism>  
<https://member.legion-aux.org/Member/Committees/Americanism/Get-Involved-Americanism>

**Every day is an Americanism Day.**

For God and Country In God We Trust

**Kris Ann Alexander**  
 Americanism Chairperson  
 Department of Georgia  
[krisann@windstream.net](mailto:krisann@windstream.net)

## Chaplain

*Gloria V. Chambers*



Greetings to all....

Heart thoughts and words of wisdom to ponder from your Chaplain...

It is with a humble heart I begin this journey as the 2025 ALA Department of Georgia Chaplain. I accept the challenge with a compassionate heart for others, a listening ear, hands to serve and a voice to petition prayers of kindness, helpfulness, guidance, safe travels, and UNITY.

I welcome you all to a new year of leadership in Georgia and the challenge to **RECHARGE AND REFRESH!!!**

There is an old saying, "you can't teach an old dog new tricks." Sooooo... a few lessons I have learned from my cat, CHILI. Chili has a one mind agenda, herself. Her way or no way.

- Lesson #1: a reminder to myself that everything DOES NOT have to be my way or my terms. Listen, look, and be enlightened by others around you and their ideas. Refresh your way of thinking.
- Lesson #2: Love others. Learn to love the unlovable. Chili loves my two large German shepherds, but they do not love her. She is consistent in wanting their acceptance. She is never fearful and continues to reach out to these two. Hopefully, LOVE will conquer.
- Lesson #3: Self Care... Love yourself first... Rest, Relax and Take naps... sometimes easier said than done.
- Lesson #4: Always seeking the master's hand. Longing for attention. Yes, finding comfort in the Father's presence. Comfort, Peace and Trust...

And last, but not least. Be playful, laugh and enjoy life... Be passionate in your serving and volunteering. Be an encourager. Your journey is not the same as my journey and my journey is not the same as yours, but if you meet me on the path, may we encourage each other.

In Matthew 18:20, "For where two or more three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Be blessed,

**Gloria Chambers**

Chaplain, Department of Georgia

912-390-2488 ★ [chaplain@ALAGeorgia.com](mailto:chaplain@ALAGeorgia.com)

## IMPORTANT SEPTEMBER DATES

By a joint resolution approved December 18, 2001 (Public Law 107-89), Congress designated September 11 of each year as "**PATRIOT DAY**," and by Public Law 111-13 (April 21, 2009), Congress has requested the observance of September 11 as an annually recognized "**NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE AND REMEMBRANCE**." A Presidential Proclamation each year calls upon us to display the flag of the United States at half-staff on this day in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. Americans are encouraged to participate in community service in honor of those our Nation lost, to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities to honor the innocent victims who perished because of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

From the ALA National Security Facebook Group: "In anticipation of **NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY** on September 20th, read this article about the unveiling of this year's poster." "Since 1973, DPAA has accounted for nearly 1,000 American service members from World War II, over 450 from the Korean War, and more than 1,000 service members from Vietnam. Last fiscal year DPAA accounted for 158 missing service members." <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/article/3812771/brown-says-trust-at-center-of-military-service-powmia-recognition-day-poster/>

## TIPS TO THRIVE IN 24/25

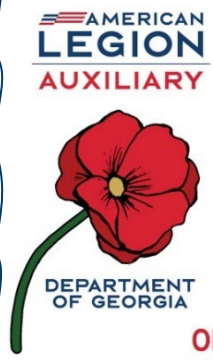
**#AmpUpMission: JUST START.** Even if you do not feel ready, start. **DO SOMETHING** that aligns with our mission - VA&R, National Security, Americanism, or Children & Youth. Invite **ALL** your members (and their friends) to participate. Plan Poppy Distribution now and reach out to the PTAs at the local schools, the MOMs can help you get the word out about Girls State.

**EMBRACE DIFFICULT PEOPLE.** Capture the contributions of their strengths that support your unit, district, or our department. Accept their weaknesses. You may learn something when you lean into people that rub you the wrong way when doing good together.

**Oops! Something did not go right? SHAKE IT OFF.** Things did not start on time or go as planned? Focus on what went well and share the positive impact. Debrief and learn from the boo-boos; you will not do them again. Boo-boos go in the rear view mirror while energy and focus embraces what is ahead in the windshield.

## 2024- 2025 MERCHANDISE ORDER

**2024-2025 MERCHANDISE**



**Orders Due 10/4/24**  
For pick-up Oct. 25, 2024  
at Fall Conference  
**Pins, Shirts, Hats, Tumblers**

Click here for information.  
Click the tab below for the paper order form.  
Print, complete & USPS snail mail with  
payment by check as noted on the form.

**OR** send the form by email to [orders@alageorgia.com](mailto:orders@alageorgia.com)  
**AND** send payment by Zelle to [orders@alageorgia.com](mailto:orders@alageorgia.com)

**This fundraiser supports the 2024-2025  
GA Department President's Special Project.**

**#AmpUpMission  
2024-2025**

Get your 2024-2025 goodies at the October Fall Conference. Send money and forms by NOON on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Follow the instructions on the form. There's still time to support the President's Special Project and look cool while you are #AmpingUpMission!

The order form can be found on the Department Website on the home page. Also on the site is the merchandise information.

<https://www.aladeptga.com/>



## GEORGIA GIRLS STATE

Deedy Harrell, Director

American Legion Auxiliary Georgia Girls State is excited to announce that two of our citizens attended Girls Nation in Washington DC July 20-29, 2024. Sofia P. was sponsored by Decatur Unit 66 and Kyleigh O. was sponsored by Marietta Unit 29. Georgia was also represented by a Junior Counselor on the Girls Nation staff, Marli English, who was a Georgia Girls State citizen, US Senator, and Girls Nation President in 2022. Senator Sofia was elected the Vice chair of the Federalist Party. <https://www.legion-aux.org/ala-girls-nation>



**Please begin your 2025 Girls State RECRUITING campaign early in the year.** The dates are June 8-13, 2025 and will be held at Valdosta State University. Please contact Pat Morgan to join the Girls State Booster Club. Contact Deedy Harrell, Girls State Director if you need assistance with your Girls State program.

Do not forget, the documentary about Girls State is available and worth the time to watch. <https://www.legion-aux.org/Blog/Girls-State-documentary-available-for-streaming>

Resources are available at <https://www.georgiagirlsstate.org/> and <https://www.georgiagirlsstate.org/info-for-units> Keep tuning in for the 2025 materials coming soon.

## DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION MEETING 2024

The 2024-2025 Department Organization Meeting was held August 10, 2024 in Warner Robins at Post 594. The entire family of leaders came together to share information, network, and begin the year of doing good for our Veteran and core mission programs. Shout out to the team at Post and Unit 594 for hosting such a special event and getting everyone fed and the room reconfigured for the separate sessions.



Pictured below left to right are Department leaders: Commander Jim Fultz; ALA President Cheryl Waybright; SAL Detachment Commander, Brian Shedd; ALR State Director Gabriele Barnett; NEC Phil Youngblood and Alternate NEC Randy Goodman, and Adjutant Lewis Kent. See the Facebook pages and groups for more pictures!



## MISSION POPPY PRIDE

As we begin a year of "Mission Excellence," we can take time to reflect on the mission bestowed upon us by our benefactor, Moina Michael. A farmer's daughter from Good Hope, Georgia in Walton County, she entrusted a legacy of serving Veterans in need of assistance using poppy donations. Thereby, we can make life easier for our service members and veterans.

**POPPY FUND GUIDELINES** from the National ALA. Poppy Funds may be used for:

- The rehabilitation of veterans honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces after April 6, 1917.
- The welfare of the families of veterans from the date above .
- The rehabilitation of hospitalized military service personnel and the families of veterans and active duty personnel from the above-named period where financial need is evident.
- The purpose of poppy kits and supplies used to make symbolic poppies and poppy items that will be distributed for donations to the poppy fund.



**HONOR FLIGHTS:** Poppy funds may be used for direct support of the following reasons directly related to a Veteran's attendance on an Honor Flight.

**For Veterans:** Food and Nutrition. Oxygen. Wheelchairs and Wheelchair accessible buses. And, Medical Teams on flights (one medic per bus- there are sometimes six medics per flight). Funds cover medic's food, identifying apparel, medical supplies, travel expenses, hotels.

**For the Guardian:** Airfare to accompany the veteran on the trip. Food and nutrition. Hotel accommodations to remain with veterans during the trip. Training associated need to execute necessary tasks- food, room rental, medical training, identifying articles of clothing. Transportation to the airport with Veteran, if required. Hotel the night before the flight, if required.

**Unit Poppy Funds can only be used for the Veteran and Guardian, not for administrative purposes.**

**NATIONAL VETERANS CREATIVE ARTS FUND:** Poppy funds may be used for the NVCAF. Donations should be submitted through the National ALA organization and earmarked NVCAF or donate online.

**ASYMCA:** Poppy funds may be used for food needs of the Veteran. If there is an Armed Forces YMCA near your Unit, this is a place to donate Poppy Funds for food needs. Donations may be submitted through National Donations at ASYMCA.org.

Members, **MAKE IT YOUR MISSION**, to share "Poppy Pride" in our communities and schools.

## Happy Birthday to Moina Michael!

(August 15<sup>th</sup>)

Cathy Hedges

Poppy Chairperson

Department of Georgia

Please note – **Wreaths Across America**, while the National ALA has a memorandum of understanding with the organization, Poppy Funds may **NOT** be spent on the program at any time. <https://www.legion-aux.org/wreaths-across-america>

## 2023-2024 Southern Division Poppy Department Award Winner!

**#AMPUPMISSION**

The American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Georgia

3035 Mt Zion Road  
Stockbridge GA 30281

678.289.8446

[www.aladeptga.com](http://www.aladeptga.com)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/alaga](https://www.facebook.com/groups/alaga)

2024-2025 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHERYL WAYBIGHT

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## JUNIORS

Contributed by NEC Susan Hall

Unit #178 in Augusta conducts a **JUNIOR MEMBERS AWARDS BANQUET** each year. In 2024, the banquet was held Saturday August 3 and had 19 Junior Members in attendance who received the Auxiliary patches from the Patch program earned during the 2023-2024 year. They also received certificates from the S.A.L. Detachment, and The American Legion Department for volunteering during the year. Special recognition was given to some of the Junior Members who achieved things outside of the ALA such as a good deed award, school excellence award, and others. The Junior Members were presented with vests complete with patches. They also each received a bag of school supplies donated by the Post 178 Legion family.

The American Legion Department of **GEORGIA FAMILY JUNIOR LEADERSHIP CAMP** is held every year at different posts. It was held at Post #70 in Villa Rica the first week in June. The Junior ALA and SAL members spent a week camping, attending classes taught by SAL and ALA members, and enjoying fellowship. At the completion of the week, the Junior Members earned patches and received those patches on a vest for them to wear at their home post meetings. This camp is open to Junior members from 8-18 years old and is held in the first week in June each year. The 2025 Camp will be held at Post 82 in Ellijay, May 31 - June 6, 2025. Stay tuned to the website for more information and the registration forms.

