



# Department of Georgia Auxiliary News

January 2026 Volume 18 Issue 3



**Gail Ramey**  
**President 2025-2026**  
**Department of Georgia**

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## Greetings from the President

Hello Everyone,

I do hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year celebration. We are half way through our year. I do hope that all of you have been informed by your District President that our Department Secretary/Treasurer, Patty Hawkins has left the Department effective December 2nd. Several members of the DEC have stepped in to fill the gap as well as members of the Finance Committee. The DEC voted prior to Patty's leaving to split the Secretary/Treasurer positions. The HR Committee is working to find suitable candidates to fill these positions. Until then the members of the DEC along with Membership Clerk Krista will continue doing everything we can to keep everything functioning.

The leading candidate for National Commander Jay Bowen, visited Augusta December 11th through December 14th. I was privileged to spend some time getting to know him. We were hosted with great meals at Post 505, Post 192, Post 178 and Post 63. We spent Friday at the Augusta VA hospital. I was very impressed with the facility and all the support staff who spoke to us. I had to leave Saturday, December 13th to get back for the Wreaths Across America ceremony and wreath laying so I missed the tour of the Blue Goose.

Please don't forget about the upcoming Polar Plunge & Leadership Training on January 17th at Tybee Island. Pam is going to have a great Leadership Workshop that you don't want to miss. If you want me to plunge please make a donation to my special project. The following weekend is the Mid-Winter Conference. We have a lot of great things planned for the weekend so please plan to attend so I hope to see lots of you there. The registration form is on the beautiful new Department web page. Speaking of that, if you have not checked out the new web page please do so. It's great and easy to navigate.

The following are the dates for National Mission Training. We have a wonderful opportunity to attend Mission Training since it's being held in Atlanta. Please consider signing up and bringing your juniors.

## Greetings from the President , continued

2025-2026 ALA Mission Training & National Junior Meetings

November 15: Albany, NY

November 15: Minneapolis

January 31: Las Vegas

January 31: Indianapolis \*

February 7: Atlanta

\*If you are interested in attending any of these training sessions click on the link below

To register now: [Click here](#) and select your city

Our Southern Division Junior Activity Chairperson, Sharon Adkins is working on a project with National President Pam Ray, called HATS FOR HEROS. Juniors at the National Junior Meeting will be filling them with personal items and racing against each other to see who can fill the most hats. We will be donating them to a Homeless Veterans' facility when they come to ATL in February. It appears the registration for the National Junior Meeting is low so please promote this to your Juniors and encourage them to attend since it will be in Atlanta and travel will be minimal.

National President Ray will be visiting Georgia arriving March 29th and leaving April 2nd. I will be looking for Units to host lunches and dinners during the National President's visit.

The National Commander will be visiting Georgia beginning April 24th. His visit will begin in Cartersville. As soon as I get details, I will pass those along.

Everyone keep up the great work and please know I am here to help in any way I can. My email address is [gailramey@msn.com](mailto:gailramey@msn.com) and my phone number is (770) 262-2524. The best way to contact me is to text or send an email.

I want to thank all of you for the support and encouragement you have given. I will do my best not to let you down.

**Gail Ramey**  
**Department President**



There is still time to order  
your merchandise to help  
support the Department  
President's Special  
Project!

Order Forms is on [Page 9](#)

or

Available at:

[ALADeptGA.com](http://ALADeptGA.com)

### Department President Merchandise



Port Authority® Ladies  
Silk Touch™ Polo  
Red

S - XL \$ 25  
XXL-XXXL \$28



Lapel Pin  
Department of Georgia  
2025-2026

\$3 Each



Port Authority® Women's  
Soft Shell Jacket  
Black

S - XL \$ 40  
XXL \$42  
XXXL \$45





## **First Vice President** **Pam Eckler**

Leadership is about making a positive impact—on people, organizations, and communities. Whether in business, education, or civic life, strong leadership helps individuals grow, overcome obstacles, and achieve their highest potential. As organizations continue to evolve, the demand for visionary and empathetic leaders will remain essential to achieving long-term success.

We need to hold our leaders accountable to do what is best for our business, our organization. We need to elect leaders who can help our Units grow, and District leaders who will assist the units within their Districts. Most importantly, we need leaders who will share information coming from our Department and coming from our units to our Department. Uninformed units cause their members to become apathetic. Apathetic members disengage from the activities within the units, and we end up with the loyal few accomplishing what they can to achieve their unit's mission.

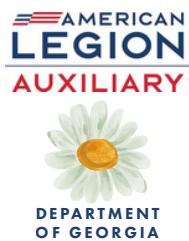
We need leaders who will follow the organization's Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules without hesitation. In the Department Operations Guide Duty of Loyalty is discussed. The Duty of Loyalty requires our leaders to make decisions that put the best interests of the organization first, **above** any personal, family, or professional interests. Is this occurring within our units and districts or are we following the age-old mantra of "that's the way it's always been done?" Are we putting the best interests of our units, districts, and Department above personal interests?

During Leadership Training we will discuss the above-mentioned topic along with providing lots of other valuable information to all attendees. Please remember, **any** member can attend Leadership Training at any location where the training is being held. Leadership Training is for **all** members of our Department, not just leaders. An informed member becomes a more involved member. There is **no** fee to attend this training, unless the sponsoring unit charges for the lunch they provide.

We currently have three Leadership Trainings scheduled, and more on the way. Unit 294 in Powder Springs (District 5) will be hosting Leadership Training on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Unit 184 Thunderbolt (District 1) will be sponsoring Leadership Training on January 17<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with the weekend's main event, The Polar Plunge. Unit 172 Warner Robins (District 6) will be sponsoring Leadership Training on March 14<sup>th</sup>. If anyone wants to attend, please reach out to the District President for the listed location so you may get registered. Starting times for all training will be 10:00 A.M. with an end date no later than 3:30 P.M. If you are interested in sponsoring a training, please contact your District President.

2026 stands before us like a clean slate, so let us move forward and put the Department Georgia on the map by sharing all the remarkable things we are doing for our veterans, active military, and their families.

**Pam Eckler**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/Leadership Chair**  
**(670) 780-8622**





**Historian**  
**Precilla Woody**



First, I would like to say I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday. As 2025 year ended, it marks our halfway point through our 2025-2026 year. Which means that you have a lot of your history from July already down and I hope everyone has been keeping up with their Unit's activities and projects. As I scroll down Facebook, I see that many of our units have had a lot going on in the year 2025. I hope that you have been keeping a log of everything, all your activities and your projects to include in your history book.

In looking back over the past months, I am impressed by the dedication and enthusiasm shown by all our members. Your commitment to documenting each event ensures that our collective story will be remembered and appreciated by future generations.

I have not heard anything or received any phone calls from anyone, and I look forward to hearing from anyone. With our Midwinter conference coming at the end of this month, I look forward to seeing everyone and talking with each of you. I also look forward to reading any reports that I might receive at the conference. If anyone has any questions, feel free to contact me, you can call, text or e-mail me, and I will help in any way I can.

Let us take pride in the progress we have made and use it as motivation to keep moving forward. The strength of our organization lies in our ability to work together and share our achievements, no matter how big or small. I hope our 2026 year will prove to be better than the 2025 year was. Remember, if we do not keep a log of our history, then no one after us will know what we did or how far we have come. So please keep your notebooks handy and jot everything down. There is not one thing that is too small. I hope 2026 will bring you boundless joy and productivity.

Precilla Woody  
Historian  
Department of Georgia  
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DEPARTMENT  
OF GEORGIA



**Chaplain**  
*Kelli McIver*

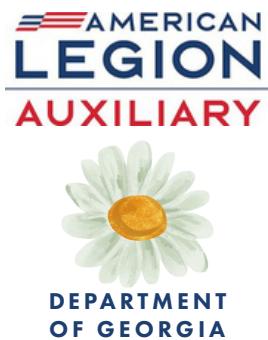
## Chaplain's Chatter

Happy New Year!!

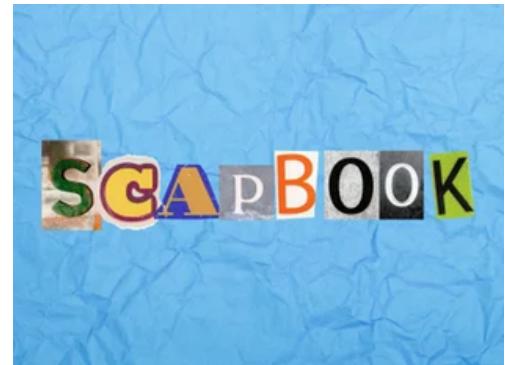
As we begin a new year, I would like to wish the Department of Georgia and its members happiness, health, peace, and prosperity. May every day in the new year bring you hope, joy, and positivity.

“ Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.” – Albert Einstein.

Kelli McIver  
Chaplain  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Georgia  
[mciverkelli@gmail.com](mailto:mciverkelli@gmail.com)  
(478) 396-4618



**Scrapbook Chair**  
**Alice Jackson**



Hello, District and Unit Scrapbookers,

2025-2026 Department of Georgia Scrapbook Contest is due to your District in May for judging.

From district judging: 1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners can be sent to Department Scrapbook Chairman, me; Alice Jackson before or on May 15 for Department Judging.

Winners from District judging due June 15 to dept. Chairman (See Scrapbook Chairman inf.) State Convention in June 2026 is the final Scrapbook Contest Judging.

Go online to get the current information. [www://aladeptga.com](http://aladeptga.com)  
(ALA Department of Georgia, Rules & Recognition)  
(Forms & Reports)  
Scrapbook information on pages 44-48.

Please let me know if you are going to participate in the District and Unit Scrapbooks Contest 2025-2026. Alice: email: [Bluefish42003@gmail.com](mailto:Bluefish42003@gmail.com)

Have fun creating history for your district and Units. See you at Mid-Winter meeting in Duluth, Georgia. Thank you for caring about your history.

Alice Jackson  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Georgia  
[Bluefish42003@gmail.com](mailto:Bluefish42003@gmail.com)





**Poppy Chair  
Cathey Hedges**



### **The Poppy Page**

In October, The Department of Georgia Executive Committee voted to eliminate the 25% obligation of poppy donations to the Department for this year. The Units will be able to retain all of the donations to aid those veterans in your community. This information was shared in the last newsletter and to the District Presidents to share with their units. The form on the website was updated at that time to reflect the change.

The website was streamlined to a more user friendly format in October. We encourage everyone to log on and check out the new content. Some units are using the form from last year and some are using copies from years ago containing incorrect information.

Also, we encourage our members to submit reports and photos on your poppy projects throughout the year. The information gets shared with National quarterly and again by June 1st. Photographs display the pride our members here in Georgia have for the poppy. You can email photos to me anytime during the year and in turn they can be shared with National leaders via email. The National leaders request "actual size" photos and a photo file sent separately from reports. This enables them to easily select those they will share at National Convention. For years, the photos were "embedded" into reports. That is still permissible but also send a separate photo file. At Mid-Winter Conference, perhaps we can try to demonstrate how to create an album to share via email.

For units in need of poppies, bags containing 250 poppies will be available for pickup and to purchase by check only on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until lunch break. There will be copies of the new form available also. On Sunday morning February 1st of the Mid-Winter Conference, the 2026 Poppy Anchor will be dedicated and presented to our Department of Georgia President by members of the Tenth District.

Poppy Poster Season is here. Grandchildren, local scouts, and members of your faith community are excellent sources to begin a unit Poppy Poster Program. The rules are on the website.

Keep up with our Poppy Pride!

Cathy Hedges  
Poppy Chair  
Department of Georgia



## Constitution and Bylaws Chair Lavette Ray



Hello, my name is Lavette Ray. Your Constitution and Bylaws chairperson. As we approach our Mid-Winter conference, I hope everyone has had an amazing holiday as I have received some constitution and bylaws from the President. Remember that your governing documents are for your Unit and Districts. Your Governing documents, per our National Parliamentarian, do not need to be approved by anyone except your unit or district. It is recommended that when updating your Governing Documents, you have a copy of the District's Governing Documents and National's. This way, you can make sure that there is no conflicting information. You do not have to adjust your documents to be exact.

If you have questions, please feel free to email me at [auxvp47@gmail.com](mailto:auxvp47@gmail.com). I will see you all at the conference in case you have questions. It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve you as your Constitution and Bylaws Chair.

Lavette Ray  
Constitution and Bylaws Chair  
[auxvp47@gmail.com](mailto:auxvp47@gmail.com)  
(904) 507-8830



DEPARTMENT  
OF GEORGIA

## A Note From Georgia Girls State Chair

The Girls State Technical Staff will be making a presentation at the Mid-Winter Conference on how to do the new process for Girls State registration. They will be at the conference on Friday, January 30th in the afternoon for the presentation and will stay through Saturday to answer individual questions.

Deedy Harrell, Director  
[georgiagirlsstate@gmail.com](mailto:georgiagirlsstate@gmail.com)  
770-337-7997



## Upcoming Events & Dates to Note

### January 2026

Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>	New Year's Day
Jan 6th	World Day of War Orphans
Jan 16 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup>	SAL Annual Meeting and Polar Plunge
Jan 19 <sup>th</sup>	Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
Jan 29 <sup>th</sup>	DEC Meeting in Duluth at 6 p.m.
Jan 30 <sup>th</sup> - Feb 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mid-Winter Conference in Duluth

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### February 2026

Americanism Month  
Black History Month

Feb 1 <sup>st</sup>	National Freedom Day
Feb 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Groundhog Day
Feb 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Four Chaplains Day
Feb 14 <sup>th</sup>	Valentine's Day
Feb 16 <sup>th</sup>	President's Day/Washington's Birthday
Feb 19 <sup>th</sup>	Coast Guard Reserve Birthday



**2005-2026**  
**Department President Merchandise**  
**Order Form**



2025-2026 POLO SHIRTS, SOFT SHELL JACKET & PINS

For more information or to submit orders\*, please contact:  
Gail Ramey • [gailramey@msn.com](mailto:gailramey@msn.com) • (770) 262-2524

\*Make checks payable to ALA Department of Georgia

Delivery date and delivery options TBD.

Is this a consolidated Unit Order?  Yes  No If "Yes", please list main point of contact and information  
Will you need your order shipped?  Yes  No If "Yes", please add the shipping cost of \$3.00 per shirt/jacket

Date Ordered:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



Port Authority® Ladies  
Silk Touch™ Polo  
Red

### Product Measurements:

(in inches)	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL
<b>Bust</b>	18 1/2	19 1/2	20 1/2	22	23 1/2	25	27
<b>Sleeve Length</b>	15 1/4	15 3/4	16 1/4	16 7/8	17 1/2	18 1/8	18 3/4
<b>Body Length</b>	26	26 1/2	27	27 1/2	28	28 1/2	29