

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA

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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 15th of each month. Did you find a mistake in the newsletter? Or do you want to submit information for next month (due on the 5th of each month)? If yes, you can send your request and information to Department@alageorgia.com or to PublicRelations@ALAGeorgia.com.



NEWS TO USE

GEORGIA FALL CONFERENCE

Plan now. The Fall Conference will begin with the DEC meeting Thursday, October 24 at 6pm and conclude with the Memorial Service on Sunday, October 27. The Conference will again be held at the Sonesta Gwinnet Place in Duluth. You can register and pay online – the Due Date for early registration is October 17. After that, the rates may be higher. The link is <https://georgialegion.org/events/department-of-georgia-fall-conference/> Please plan to attend the conference and the banquet on Saturday night. See page 5 for more information.

Time to prepare for Halloween! [Order](#) or [Download](#) ALA Halloween coloring books! These easy-to-use publications are a fantastic way to spread awareness of the ALA and our important mission to families in your community while also giving Halloween treats to kids.

JUNIORS

See Committee Chair Kalyn's updates and start planning now for March and June!

MEMBERSHIP

Wow! Membership sure is AMPED UP! As of October 9, Georgia is 5th in the Southern Division and 8th in the nation! Compared to this time last year, the Department is up by 68 members. This is because of YOU and our unit membership teams! Way to Go!!!

MISSION

If you have not pre-ordered a copy of the ALA Challenge Deck, to support the National President's project, it is not too late. Pre-order at this [LINK](#). You can also check out the full deck in the Georgia Private Facebook [GROUP](#) and look under files. The cards provide "quick hit" ideas for units to have an impact in their communities. PICK JUST ONE THING & DO IT!



LEAD THE WAY...RENEW

All officers, EC members and committee chairs at all levels (*Unit, District and especially Department*) should have renewed their 2025 membership to Lead the Way! We would love to see twenty-five National 100% Goal Units this year!

HAPPY READING!

2024-2025 LEADERSHIP

President.....Cheryl Waybright
 1st Vice PresidentGail Ramey
 2nd Vice PresidentPam Eckler
 HistorianDebbie Hoopingarner
 ChaplainGloria Chambers
 Secretary/Treasurer.....Patty Hawkins
 NECSusan Hall
 NEC AlternatePat Morgan

Sergeants at Arms

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

MISSION COMMITTEES

Veterans AffairsMirima Stein
 National Security.....Laura Miller
 Children & YouthGabriele Barnett
 AmericanismKris Ann Alexander
 Community Service.....Sharon Wilson
 Education.....Dr. Cindy Swartz
 Girls StateDeedy Harrell
 Junior Activities.....Kalyn Slagle
 Poppy.....Cathy Hedges

SUPPORT COMMITTEES

Awards & Recognition .Linda Brock
 Convention9th District
 Credentials.....Phyllis Jones &
 Sabrina Brown Putney, Co-Chairs
 FinanceSusan Hall, Chair
 Ruth Ann Shelby & Sarah Zingarelli
 Human Resources.....Sheila Tinsley, Chair
 Gabriele Barnett & Pam Eckler
 Leadership/Yearbook...Gail Ramey
 MembershipPam Eckler
 Past President Parley & Member of the Year
 Cheryl Jackson-Sinkler
 Poppy Anchor11th District
 Launching.....1st District, Unit 184
 Orders.....Patty Hawkins
 Public Relations.....Courtney Waybright
 ResolutionsDr. Joann Meadows
 Risk & ComplianceKathy Merritt, Chair
 Anitia Owens & Lisa Marie Papp
 Scrapbook.....Melinda Gaskins
 Unit Development & Revitalization
 Pam Eckler & Gail Ramey, Co-Chairs
 Jennie Chandler



Cheryl Waybright

President 2024-2025

#AMPUPMISSION

Fall is here! #AmpUpMission is really rocking, and the Department Fall Conference is next week. Boy, have our department volunteers been busy! Committee Chairs have been attending National and Southern Division Meetings. That's a lot of zooming! THANK YOU to all Committee Chairs (and your stand ins) for attending these meetings and bringing information back to district committee chairs and to district presidents for distribution.

We have a few awesome updates from Department Committee Chairs in this Newsletter and will hear Committee Chair and District President reports at the Fall Conference. Hold on tight!

Many of our members and department leaders were impacted adversely by the hurricanes, tornadoes and resulting power outages, failing communications networks, restoration and clean up. With the increase in covid many members are staying safe and not attending large gatherings. Please remember we have the Auxiliary Emergency Fund available for both Disaster and Hardship Assistance. See <https://www.legion-aux.org/aef> for more information. If you need help, please reach out to me.

Units and individuals are encouraged to make donations to the AEF through the Department so that our participation can be tracked. Remember, Members helping Members!

I want to thank all of you for all you do and especially those of you who already renewed your membership; are processing unit memberships; are recruiting new members; and, are reaching back and re-instating former members. I really appreciate all your efforts to keep us ahead of our Alabama challenge opponent and keeping us on target to hit 85% by Ground Hog day – see the Membership Challenge [HERE](#).

Please reach out with any question – no matter position, level, or location – I am here to serve **you**. Just ask.

Cheryl Waybright

404-625-6708 ★ Cheryl@ALAGeorgia.com

AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY



STAY CONNECTED

DEPARTMENT WEBSITE:

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

o Need a form?

<https://www.aladeptga.com/forms-1>

o Need to find a department leader?

https://www.aladeptga.com/about_us

o Or a department committee chair?

<https://www.aladeptga.com/committee-chairpersons>

o ...or Department Governing Documents?

<https://www.aladeptga.com/governing-documents>

GEORGIA GIRLS STATE

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

Membership Clerk: amlegaux@bellsouth.net

President: Cheryl@ALAGeorgia.com

Leadership: Leadership@ALAGeorgia.com

Membership: Membership@ALAGeorgia.com

Historian: Historian@ALAGeorgia.com

Chaplain: Chaplain@ALAGeorgia.com

PR: PublicRelations@ALAGeorgia.com

Newsletter: 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-aux.org/member/program-engagement-plans>

SECRETARY/ TREASURER

Patty Hawkins



Welcome to Fall. Time is flying, some days faster than others. **It is now time to get**

ready for our Fall Conference. Have you

made your hotel reservations and registered yet for the Fall Conference? It will be held at the Sonesta Hotel in Duluth. A detailed agenda will be posted on the website soon.

The Christmas assessment letters were mailed in early October. We have already begun receiving the payments in. We need to receive the assessments quickly so our VAVS Reps can get the things needed for our Veterans.

How many things have you checked off your Unit's to do list?

- ☐ **Membership Dues:** All Department, District and Unit Officers should have paid their 2025 membership dues by now but unfortunately, we are not at 100% of leaders renewed at the Department or District levels. Several of our units' membership is still sitting at zero. **Please as leaders, LEAD THE WAY and renew now!**
- ☐ **Obligations:** The quicker the units mail them in, the better positioned the department is to support our programs. If your unit poppy order and payment is received by October 18th, the order will be brought to the Fall Conference if requested to save on postage. I will need to know who the designated person is to pick them up.
- ☐ **Volunteer Hours:** Each member should be keeping track of their volunteering hours for our Impact Reports. Someone in your unit is likely looking for your hours and activity since May 1. Don't wait until the end of April!
- ☐ **Compliance Items:** Has your unit filed your 990 form? Check your fiscal year, if it ends June 30, the due date is November 15! Have you updated your filing with the Georgia Secretary of State to include your new officers?

Just make a list and start checking them off the list one by one, you will be surprised how much can be completed. Also, remember this is not just one person's responsibility to take care of unit business. It takes all the officers and volunteers to get it done. We are there to help each other.

Let's continue to pray for all our Family that has been hit by Helene and impacted by Milton. I hope to see everyone at the Fall Conference.

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

Patty Hawkins

678-289-8446 ★ secamlegaux@bellsouth.net

KEY DATES

FIRST OF EVERY MONTH BE THE ONE

EVERY FRIDAY IS **RED** Shirt Friday
(Remembering Everyone Deployed) Wear Red!

October 2024

17.....Committee Chair National Training

19.....Leadership Workshop Unit 184 Thunderbolt

Register: <https://forms.gle/3tvM2ekh29dfENuH9>

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](#)

• Holiday Meals for Military Families with Operation Homefront

• Native American Heritage Month (American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month)

3..... Daylight Savings Time Ends

5..... ELECTION DAY

9..... Gold Star Father's Day (GA recognizes)

9..... Anniversary: Moina Michael USPS Stamp 1948

10.....American Legion Auxiliary Birthday (1919)

10.....Marine Corps Day/Birthday (1775)

11..... Veterans Day (1954)

11..... Armistice/Remembrance Day

16..... ALA National Mission Training – **Hit the Link!**
<https://member.legion-aux.org/meetings/mission-training/>

28..... Thanksgiving Day

30.....American Legion Day at the Georgia Festival of Trees

December 2024

Holiday Meals for Military Families with Operation Homefront

Universal Human Rights Month

1..... Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary) Birthday

3..... International Day of Persons with Disabilities
..... #Giving Tuesday

7..... Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

14..... Wreaths Across America Day

15..... Bill of Rights Day

16..... U.S. National Guard Birthday (1636)

..... Desert Storm (Persian Gulf) began (1991)

20..... United States Space Force (USSF) Birthday

25..... Christmas

25..... Hanukkah

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEWOMAN (2022-2026)

Susan Hall



It is my pleasure to serve the Department for a third year as the elected member to the National Executive Committee (NEC).

Someone asked me recently “what does that mean, NEC”?

Like the District Presidents in our Department serve on our Georgia Department Executive Committee (DEC) along with our elected and staff officers and our Department Past Presidents, I serve on the National Executive Committee alongside the NEC members from all other states, the national elected officers, and Past National Presidents.

If you review my article in the September newsletter, you will find my update to the Department of what transpired at the most recent NEC meetings. As a member of the NEC, I must come to meetings prepared, with a thorough understanding of what is being discussed and voted on to represent the organization to the best of my ability.

The training that we NEC members must go through is comprehensive and very similar to the material found in the document ["DEC 101"](#). The guidance in this document can also, *as with a lot of the National and Department level materials*, be applied at the District and Unit levels. In my years on the GA DEC, I have learned that many of our units and districts, and sometimes even those new to the DEC, do not fully understand their role on the executive committee. At all levels, the “EC” serves as the “board of directors” for the entity just like the NEC does for National. For our DEC, much of this material was covered in the day-long organizational meeting on August 10.

NEC members are reminded on a regular basis that we are “entrusted with adopting sound corporate policy, ensuring fiduciary standards and fiscal health of the organization, and bear responsibility for strategic direction.” We are also reminded that the NEC is responsible for overall governance. Our annual training guides us to the functions of other key committees at the National level, which also apply to Departments. The function of the Risk & Compliance Committee is risk management and oversight; the function of the Finance Committee is financial review, reporting and annual budget preparation, and the function of the Headquarters staff is day-to-day management.

Continued, Next Page

NEC - Continued from page 4

FALL CONFERENCE

October 24-27, 2024

Preliminary Timeline – Subject to Change

THURSDAY 10/24

- 6pm: DEC Meeting
Doors will open at 5:30 pm
- ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME

RED FRIDAY 10/25

Wear RED Remember Everyone Deployed

- **9am-3:30 pm: Fall Conference DAY 1**
Doors will open at 8:30 am. We have special guests and fun planned.
- **4pm: VAVS Rep and Dep Meeting**
- Evening: All Legion family members are invited to attend a steak dinner at Post 127 in Sugar Hill (*Cost ~ \$20/person.*)

PINK SATURDAY 10/26

Wear PINK if you have it for Breast Cancer Awareness or wear 24/25 white President Shirts or other patriotic colors.

- **8:30am –9:45 am Joint Family Session**
Please attend: show membership strength!
- **10am-3:30 pm: Fall Conference Day 2**
- 6:00 pm Fall Banquet

SUNDAY 10/27

- 8:30am – Joint Memorial Service

REGISTER

<https://georgialeghion.org/events/department-of-georgia-fall-conference/>

Another responsibility of the executive committee is the responsibility for fiduciary integrity and fiscal soundness. It is practiced in the NEC and in many DEC's across the country and other non-profits that each member of the governing board donates to the organization for which they serve.

I leave you with this. As a corporate director at any level, unit, district, department or in my case, national, our primary role as a member of the organization's governing body is to protect the organization. This includes being fully aware of all our governing documents, being prepared, and removing any personal bias or other influences from our decision-making so that as individuals and thus, the executive committee, we put the health and wellbeing of the organization first in the decision making process.

I am excited for those that will get to attend the Fall Conference. Many of you may know that our Alternate NEC, Past Department President Pat Morgan will be standing in for me as I am unable to attend because of an injury and I am going through recovery and rehabilitation. This will be the first department conference I have missed since 2015. As a courtesy, President Waybright briefed me on the agenda so I know that there will be fantastic learning, networking and fun taking place. I am sorry I will miss seeing you and taking part in the event.

In closing, if you are a member of a unit, district, department or like me, national executive committee, our primary responsibility is "to serve as a forward-thinking fiduciary steward of the organization to ensure its financial sufficiency and organizational integrity through strategy and policy that afford future generations the opportunity to participate in our mission."

Now, let's go #AmpUPMission!

Susan Hall

508-944-0791 ★ Suem_66@yahoo.com

CONTESTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

It's never too early to start recruiting Girls for **Girls State**. A big tip is to coordinate **within units** to recruit AND promote **ALL the ALA programs for youth** when visiting the schools. Check out the [Unit information](https://www.georgiagirlsstate.org/) available on the Georgia Girls State Website. <https://www.georgiagirlsstate.org/>

Americanism Essay Contest: 2024-2025 topic is "What Does America the Beautiful Mean to Me?" This is regarding veterans and our military. Visit the National website's Americanism page for information. <https://member.legion-aux.org/Member/Committees/Americanism/Get-Involved-Americanism> or <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/americanism> Stay tuned to the Americanism Chair's info for Georgia due dates.

The Poppy Poster Contest: The contest rules are available at: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Poppy-Poster-Contest> Stay tuned to the GA Poppy Chair's info for Georgia submission guidelines.

Oratorical Contest: Information can be found here: <https://www.legion.org/get-involved/youth-programs/oratorical-contest>. Confirm with your post and district commander for contest dates. Your Girls State recruits are perfect candidates for this contest!!!

Scholarships: Provide information about our Department and National scholarships!!!

#AMPUPMISSION

The American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Georgia

3035 Mt Zion Road
Stockbridge GA 30281

678.289.8446

www.aladeptga.com
www.facebook.com/groups/alaga

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

October 19 Unit 184, Thunderbolt
 Register: <https://forms.gle/3tvM2ekh29dfENuH9>
 January 11 Unit 233, Loganville
 February 8 Unit 160, Smyrna
 March 8 Unit 172, Warner Robins
 April 5 TBD

ALL SESSIONS: Registration begins at 9:30 am, the program starts at 10:00 am.

Leadership Workshop sessions will be woven into the agenda of both the Fall and Spring Conferences. Do not miss the change to network and learn – attend the conferences.

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/>. Other Dates and Locations are November 16th Denver; January 25th Des Moines, and February 1 in Las Vegas or Boston.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Remember, useful information is available at the National ALA Academy. Have questions? Review one of the sessions on the subject you are interested in.



ALA Academy

The ALA Academy provides tools to members to help grow the Auxiliary's mission, and the organization as a team.

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

First Vice President – LEADERSHIP Gail Ramey



Hello Everyone,

It's not too late to sign up for the workshop coming up in Thunderbolt on October 19th. The link to register is to the left. We would love to have you. When you register, I ask you to let me know what you want to learn. We cover several subjects at every Workshop because of their importance and we try address subjects requested by attendees.

I will continue to emphasize that I want the Leadership Workshops to be fun and beneficial to all who attend.

To the left is the list of workshops that are coming up. Please remember, every workshop is open to anyone who wants to attend no matter where you live. I have not finalized the date nor location for a workshop in April, but I am hoping to very soon. More information to come.

The Leadership Workshops begin at 9:30 with Registration and we start at 10:00 am. We try to finish by 3:30 pm at the latest.

The Department Fall Conference is next week. You will find that our committee chairs and leaders will be sharing a lot of the information covered at the workshops – so come on and enjoy the networking and learning. It's not too late to register if you have not already. See info on the previous page.

Reminder, **National Mission Development Training** is coming up. The November 16 event in Nashville is our closest. Because of this, we are not having a workshop in November (that and District meetings and Thanksgiving). **Registration is on the National website – see the link to the left.** WARNING – the Nashville event sold out early last year. Don't miss joining the huge crew from GA that is attending.

Also, do not forget about the free ALA Academy training. Log into the National website, click on Meetings/Training and you will see ALA ACADEMY. Or use the link to the left.

Please encourage your members to contribute to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. With the recent disasters funds will be needed more than ever.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. If you call and I don't answer, please leave a message and I will get back to you.

Gail Ramey

770-262-2524 ★ leadership@ALAGeorgia.com

Second Vice President - **MEMBERSHIP**

Pam Eckler



How can we engage our new members?

As soon as their membership is approved, give them a Membership welcome kit.

It is always helpful when members receive a copy of the Unit's Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules. Members like to know the rules and what is expected of them.

Do you have a monthly calendar indicating the date of your meetings and other events? Give your new members a copy, so they can become involved.

The application for the free LIT insurance is another great insert for the welcome kit because everyone likes a freebie.

How about inserting a short questionnaire? Ask them what they would like to do in their new Unit. Would they like to talk with children in the local schools, teach flag etiquette, cook a meal, or help serve that meal? It's always good to know your members' comfort zones.

Right from the first meeting, treat your new member like part of the Unit's family. Introduce your new member at their first meeting and allow a few minutes for them to tell why they joined. You might be surprised!

One Unit has a quarterly luncheon for all their new members to welcome them into the family. Everyone feels like part of the Unit's family right from the start.

Have I mentioned the word "family" too much?

Well, aren't we all family with one thing in common? We work to give back to our heroes. Hope to see all my family at our Fall Conference.

Pam Eckler

670-780-8622 ★ membership@ALAGeorgia.com



LEGION FAMILY NEWS

New partnership for The American Legion: The American Legion has entered an official partnership with the Army-Navy Football Game presented by USAA. The Army-Navy Game is among the longest standing and most storied rivalries in college football history. This year, the game will be played on Dec. 14. This new partnership aligns with the Legion's core values of service, patriotism, and camaraderie. The American Legion is the first veterans service organization to sponsor this annual game. The American Legion will also be participating in year-round sponsorships of both Army West Point Athletics and Navy Athletics. These agreements help raise awareness of the Be the One mission to reduce the number of veterans and servicemembers lost to suicide.

The Samsung American Legion Scholarship is awarded to 10 national scholars, 10 runners-up and 75 finalists. The Samsung American Legion Scholarship is awarding \$243,750 in scholarships to 95 recipients who attended either the 2024 American Legion Boys State or Auxiliary Girls State session. The recipients were selected by The American Legion's Committee on Youth Education during the organization's annual Fall Meetings in Indianapolis the week of Oct. 7. Read more [HERE](#).

American Legion Grass Roots Action Center can always use the help of each member. Go to this website <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home> and view key legislation, sign up for alerts, and reach out to your US government leaders and let your voice be heard. You may report the time you take to advocate for veterans on your personal impact report you submit to your unit.

HISTORIAN

Debbie Hoopingarner

Have you ever been to the Department of Georgia Headquarters in Stockbridge?

I paid a visit to headquarters recently and found a piece of history to share with you.

In the archives I found a 5th District Yearbook from 1986 and coincidentally, I'm from District 5.

The first thing I noticed was the unit membership totals. At the end of the year in 1986, the total membership was 1,248. At the end of 2023 – 2024 our membership total was 1,292, a difference of only 44 members. Unit 29 in Marietta has grown from 191 to 411 and Unit 70 in Villa Rica has grown from 18 to 136. Out of 15 units, four no longer exist, five have less members, three are new and the rest have stayed close to the same. The number of units changed from fourteen to fifteen.

In 1986 Unit 111 in Dallas lost their Post to a lightning strike that destroyed the Post. At the time they had 44 members. Then, the 5th District included Post 111 as one of its missions.

Thirty-eight years later they are still going strong with 87 members. On Sunday September 29, they hosted their 10th annual Gold Star Mother's and Family Day. This year's event was amazing and next year it will be even better.

Years from now another historian may walk into that room looking for a piece of history as I did. That piece of history could be about this year's hurricane. Will your Unit be one that just survives, one that thrives or one that fades away? If you don't tell your story, no one will ever know.

Please send me information about your events or even photos so it can be preserved and shared with future Unit members.

Remember that I'm always available to answer questions or emails.

Feel free to contact me anytime.

Debbie Hoopingarner

317-753-3394 Historian@alageorgia.com



CHAPLAIN

Gloria V. Chambers

I must be honest with you.

I struggled with the creative thought process with writing this newsletter column.

The past few weeks have been mentally draining and emotionally exhausting with regards to the horrific hurricane. I have decided not to print her name on purpose, I believe enough has been said and at this point it is heart breaking to see the path of destruction left behind.

Sooooo.... With that being stated, let's move forward and claim who we are and to whom we belong and be grateful for the simple things we are blessed with in this world.

Our Father beckons us "come sit beside me, my sweet child, whisper my name and I will listen. Our Father knows our needs and brings comfort that the world cannot offer. Listen closely to what He says, and if you do this, it will help you some sunny day. Troubles will come and they will pass. Just remember my child, there is someone up above. Take your time, don't live life too fast. Live each day. Pray, trust, and obey."

I encourage each unit to please begin your prayer books. Let it not be a chore, but a reverent way to share with others your prayer concerns and blessings you have and are currently experiencing in your life. May God be your Rock that cannot be shaken even by the fiercest of storms. I will praise You, Lord!

Please remember our past Chaplain Sabrena Putney in the loss of her husband, James Putney. Please remember our NEC who is injured and in the hospital with a long road to recovery. Prayers of peace and love through our Heavenly Father. I close with this verse of scripture: "Everything has its own time, there is a specific time for every activity under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1. I challenge each of you to read the verses that follow Ecclesiastes:2-7.

Be blessed,

Gloria Chambers

912-390-2488 ★ chaplain@ALAGeorgia.com



JUNIOR ACTIVITY PATCH RESOURCES

Junior members along with young Sons of the American Legion can earn patches for completing a variety of activities. The activities for each patch are designed to provide learning and involvement in the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary for four different age groups age 3 through grade 12. There are 15 different programs for which youth can earn programs.

The ALA is also offering special event or activity patches. Juniors that attend a National Junior Meeting (*same dates and location as National Mission Training*) will receive a patch for attending. Junior members attending their Girl State program will receive a patch for that event. Junior members raising \$ 5.00 times their age and submitting to the Children of Warriors Scholarship receive a patch.

Activities can be worked on individually, as a Junior group or in other activities in the Junior's life. Read all about the patch program here: <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/junior-member-activities/patch-program>

[Junior Activities Patch Order Form](#)

PURPLE LEVEL [Pre-School Age 3 – K](#)

RED LEVEL [1st – 4th Grades](#)

GOLD LEVEL [5th – 8th Grades](#)

BLUE LEVEL [9th – 12th Grades](#)

JUNIOR MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Kalyn Slagle, Committee Chair

Dear Members,

My name is Kalyn Slagle, and I'm honored to introduce myself as the new Junior Member Activities Chair for the American Legion Auxiliary in Georgia. I am excited to share some wonderful events and opportunities we have planned for our junior members this year.

One of the highlights will be our Spring Conference in March, where we encourage all Junior members to attend. This event will be filled with fun crafts, learning opportunities, and plenty of fellowship. It's a great chance for our younger members to come together, make new friends, and grow in their understanding of the Auxiliary's mission.

Leading up to the conference, I will be organizing contests and challenges for the Juniors, offering them a chance to participate and earn the Junior Patches. These activities are designed to be engaging and educational, helping our Juniors build skills and confidence as future leaders of the Auxiliary.

In June, we will again host our Georgia American Legion Family - Junior Leadership Camp. See the press release on the next page. Forms and a checklist will be posted online soon.

If you, or your junior member have any questions about these upcoming events or activities, please reach out to me. I am here to support our junior members every step of the way, and I'm thrilled to see what this year will bring for all of us!

Warm regards,

Kalyn Slagle

706-701-9248 ★ kalynslagle@yahoo.com



NATIONAL JUNIOR ACTIVITIES INFORMATION:

NATIONAL SLOGAN: The National Chair of Junior Activities, Jeanne Haas's slogan for 2024-2025 is **EXPLAIN, ENGAGE AND ACKNOWLEDGE**. "We should explain the Auxiliary programs and what good they do, engage our juniors in Unit/Department projects and acknowledge their accomplishments."

MEETINGS Five National Junior Meetings will be held this year. The first two will be on November 16. You do not need to attend your Division meeting if another date or location works better for you. All National Junior meetings will have similar content. The Junior Member of the Year in that Division will be a guest speaker. **Honor Flight will have a speaker, and our service project is in connection with this program.** Songs and games will be a part of the day. A patriotic craft for the Juniors' use will be on the agenda. Not only is this a meeting to gain ideas, but friendships across state lines are developed. Register Junior members using the link:

<https://www.legion-aux.org/Meetings/National-Junior-Meetings/>

PRESS RELEASE:
GEORGIA AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY - JUNIOR
LEADERSHIP CAMP
POST 82: ELLIJAY ★ MAY 31 - JUNE 6, 2025

For the 12 past years The Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Georgia has conducted “Junior Camp” for the Sons members 8-17 years old. In 2021 the camp included Junior Members from the American Legion Auxiliary. The camp is known as the **Georgia American Legion Family - Junior Leadership Camp** and includes SAL and ALA Junior members 8-17 years old.

The camp is conducted at a different American Legion Posts around the state and members of the Legion, SAL and ALA serve as counselors, instructors, and staff.

The Campers receive instruction in the proper retirement of the American Flag, folding the Flag properly and attend classes in Americanism, parliamentary procedure, leadership, and Legion Family History.

The SAL and The ALA juniors also conduct their annual convention and installation of officers while at camp. The SAL Commander and ALA President have pledged to attend.

Campers are given time to fish, play games, and interact with each other, all under the supervision of the staff. The staff must undergo background checks and take a class in Risk assessment and awareness of child abuse symptoms.

Several of the past campers have gone on to Post/Unit, District and Department positions

Applications to attend as a “camper” or as a staff member are available on the SAL Georgia website at this link: <https://www.salgeorgia.org/> (bottom right).

The 2025 Camp will be held at Post 82 in Ellijay; May 31 - June 6, 2025

At one camp, several Juniors, (SAL and ALA) performed the Flag retirement so well they were commended by our National SAL Vice Commander who was visiting. It is rumored that a post was conducting a flag retirement ceremony, and the Juniors spoke up and told them they were not doing it right. The Juniors were told “ok if you can do better go ahead.” So, the Juniors took over and conducted the entire ceremony from memory. **That** is what we are trying to instill in youth. **We must protect and nurture this nation’s greatest natural resource; Our Children.**

Please promote this camp to all your members and, recruit a few new members while you are at it.





MISSION POPPY GROWTH

Cathy Hedges

Poppy Chairperson, Department of Georgia



As Veterans Day draws near, **members of the ALA are entrusted with the mission to expand and grow our poppy program.** Our youth and citizens deserve to be taught the significance of the poppy and how the donated funds benefit our veterans in need. It is an amazing experience to share the history with an individual that has no knowledge of the intent of the poppy donations.

Suggested ideas to increase and grow awareness in our communities include:

- **Promote the poppy in schools and with local youth groups** such as scouts, homeschoolers, etc. by providing coloring sheets downloaded from the National ALA Poppy Committee website. Make arrangements with school administrators and/or leaders for story time to read "The Poppy Lady: Moina Belle Michael and her Tribute to Veterans." Provide poppy craft ideas for youth. And most importantly, implement a program of Poppy Poster Submissions from the students and youth in the community (including grandchildren).
- **Plan Poppy Distribution Events** at festivals and community events by reserving a booth in advance with sponsors or schedule storefront distribution with managers of local businesses (Veteran owned businesses are normally very agreeable).
- Contact your local government offices to arrange a day and time to attend one of their regularly scheduled meetings and schedule a **"Poppy Proclamation Presentation."** The local officials will present the document to Auxiliary members. A sample proclamation to share with them is available on National's website. Pin those officials with a poppy corsage prior to the meeting. Working with your government leaders is beneficial to all. Invite them to Post events as well.
- To **get Juniors excited about the Poppy**, invite them to finger-paint poppy cards or other poppy crafts. These can then be shared with Veterans in VA Hospitals or local nursing homes. Juniors reading the "Poppy Lady" in these facilities give veterans joy and a sense of pride. Prepare "Poppy in the Window" displays using card stock to decorate the veteran's door or hang it in their room (removable adhesives work best).
- **Show your Poppy Pride** by wearing a Poppy Pin when in public places. It is awesome to have someone inquire about what it signifies and ask how they can obtain one.
- Use poppies to decorate for Post events inside and outside.
- Look at the National poppy committee online blogs for ideas applied by other Departments.
- Celebrate Poppies Everyday as demonstrated by Moina Michael.

"GROW GEORGIA RED IN SUPPORT OF VETERANS"

Members attending Fall Conference later this month will receive a packet of poppy seeds to plant this fall. In Georgia, poppies are considered a cool-season crop and perform better with a period of cool temperatures.

Cathy Hedges

cathy4hedges@gmail.com

DID YOU KNOW?

The United States Postal Service issued a commemorative stamp on November 9, 1948 recognizing Moina Belle Michael, the founder of the memorial poppy to honor this educator and patriot, internationally known as "The Poppy Lady" born in Good Hope, GA, August 15, 1869.



EVENTS

VETERANS DAY: The 43rd Annual Georgia Veterans Day Events (Georgia Veterans Day Parade in Midtown Atlanta, Observance Ceremony, and Veterans Expo) proudly presented by the Georgia Veterans Day Association, Inc., will be held on Saturday, November 9th. The annual black-tie Freedom Ball that evening will be at the Oceans Ballroom at the Georgia Aquarium. The 2024 Theme is "Honoring our Airborne and Special Operations Forces". More information can be found at <https://www.georgiaveteransday.org/>



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA.

December is a few months away, but **it's not too early to start planning now** for Wreaths Across America Day! You can become a sponsorship group or sponsor a wreath for the December 14 event.

[Learn how](#) [<-click] to create a sponsorship group or sponsor a wreath.




GEORGIA Festival of TREES

THE PINK PIG
GEORGIA FESTIVAL OF TREES

What:
The American Legion Day

When:
November 30, 2024

Where:
Gas South Convention Center

wellcare **AMERICAN LEGION**
Presented by Wellcare

Call 866-734-WELL (9355) for your complimentary ticket.

THE PINK PIG IS A TRADEMARK OF MACY'S.

LEGION FAMILY DAY AT THE GEORGIA FESTIVAL OF TREES SATURDAY, NOV. 30

WellCare is presenting a special day of activities **FREE** for the entire American Legion Family. The Pink Pig is back and the new location for the Georgia Festival of Trees is the **Gas South Convention Center**. Not only "FREE ADMISSION," but the day will include an engaging agenda of activities for veterans, active duty, and their families. All members of TAL, ALA, SAL, and the Riders are eligible to obtain free tickets. See info to the left and at <https://gafestivaloftrees.org/>

The Georgia Legion Family has been invited to decorate a patriotic tree. **Who's up for that?** Decorating (with poppies) will occur the week before the event opens. If you are interested in donating materials or time, reach out to our Department President and let's put a plan together!



GEORGIA GIRLS STATE

Deedy Harrell, Director

Girls State 2025 will be held at Valdosta State University June 8 - 13, 2025. (Staff arrival will be June 6 and/or 7.)

The fee is \$350.00 per girl. Units are to make checks payable to Georgia Girls State. Please submit payments to department headquarters by **April 20, 2025**. Please let me know if you need extra time for fees.

Each district is required to send a counselor's fee of \$350.00. If any district has a recommendation for a counselor, please send the name and a resume to me by March 1, 2025.

If you need any assistance, please contact me by phone, text, or email. You may also contact the Assistant Director, Gabriele Barnett, at 706-951-3906 or at barnettgabriele@hotmail.com.

Applications and other Girls State Information will be available to each unit at the Fall Conference. Online applications will be ready by March 10. The application process used in 2024 will be used again in 2025. The website will be updated in early November.

Thanks to all units for all you do during the selection and preparation process and thanks to those units willing to sponsor girls from other areas. I have many contacts from girls wishing to attend and sponsors are needed.

Girls State has a talented group of members and volunteers who work diligently for Girls State. It is such an important program and is life changing for so many of the girls in our state.

Please join the Georgia Girls State Booster Club. Pat Morgan will have information on the Booster Club at Fall Conference. She can be reached at 229-561-4070.

Thank You,

Deedy Harrell

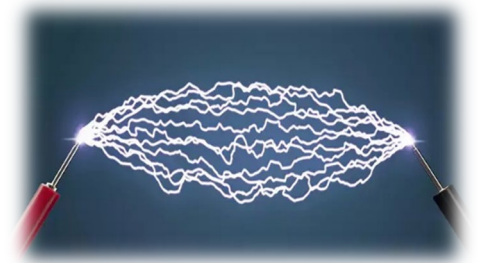
770-337-7997 ★ georgiagirlsstate@gmail.com (800 E. 10th Avenue, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169)



TIPS TO THRIVE IN 24/25

Amps(Amperes) measure the flow of electrical current (charge) through a circuit. *So, who cares?*

While we are *charging* forward “*leading the way*” to **#AMPUPMISSION** this administrative year, let’s put some **AMPS** into our vocabulary and practice when building our volunteer teams. Find out what **ASPRIES** your members to engage in achieving a unit or district goal. Then let them run with it. Zone in on what **MOTIVATES** each member of your team – understand their **WHY** – why are they bought into “Service Not Self” then match their motivations to needs. Those two parts together can really charge up individuals and fire up teams resulting – hopefully – in increased volunteerism to support our mission. Identify and recognize each volunteer’s and member’s **POTENTIAL**. What are some untapped abilities in your unit members that with a little “charge” could match their **WHY** to a need? Do that and sparks are likely to start flying! Last, always recognize **SUCCESS** even if there are instances where there are more opportunities for improvement than what was accomplished. If your team is reflecting on all the good stuff, they will be able to roll all the learning points (what didn’t go so hot) into the next time. **AMPS** will charge up the team for the NEXT time.



#AMPUPMISSION

#AMPUPMISSION

The American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Georgia

3035 Mt Zion Road
Stockbridge GA 30281

678.289.8446

www.aladepgtga.com
www.facebook.com/groups/alaga

AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

Want to be featured on this page? Send information before the 5th of the month to Department@alageorgia.com or to PublicRelations@ALAGeorgia.com. Include short write up and a picture.



(Left) On Sept. 29, Unit 111 in Dallas, GA hosted its 10th Annual Gold Star Mother Luncheon to honor Gold Star Mothers, Families & Loved Once. The event included a Motorcycle Escort, Public Flag Line and a Luncheon for the families and invited guests. It was reported to be a wonderful day spending time with amazing Gold Star Families & supporters. (Photo courtesy of Amy Loudermilk.)

(Right) From Chaplain Gloria Chambers. On Oct. 12, Post 130 and Unit 130 joined together for Community Pancake breakfast and festival at the Post. *"We had a blast !!! It was so heartfelt to laugh and fellowship after this past month of storms . Keeping the faith !!!"*



(Left) On Oct. 5, Legion Family 172 in Warner Robins came together to support one of our own for the Middle Georgia Honor Flight. Middle Georgia Honor Flight enables aging and terminally ill U.S. veterans to visit and reflect at their memorials of armed conflict in Washington, DC. Post 172 and Auxiliary Unit 172 were proud to Welcome Home our Veterans!

(Right) The Ron Asby American Legion Post 304 in Acworth, partnering with the 9/11 Memorial Ride Foundation, collected donations from around the department and community sending relief trucks Saturday October 12th dropping donations at two different sites in Asheville, NC. Loaded with items donated by Post and non-Post members, the truck made its first stop at the Buncombe County collection site.



(Below) Unit 239 and District 9 ALA coordinated a Ranger Appreciation Event Saturday, October 12 in Dahlonega. This event would not have been possible without generous donations, time, planning, and execution from many members and units who donated, prepared, cooked, and served the Rangers and their families. The Rangers



conducted "Trunk or Treat" for the kids and a hosted a costume contest. The District provide a "tank" bouncy house that the kids loved.

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE

Sarah Zingarelli, VAVS Deputy & Finance Committee

For the past fifty years, on the first Wednesday of each month, Auxiliary Unit 66, and Legion Post 66 members volunteer at the Hartsfield Jackson Atlanta Airport USO.

Auxiliary members make sandwiches, side dishes and desserts. The Unit provides hotdogs, buns, chili, fruit, chips, and condiments. The volunteers meet at the Post and carpool to the airport where they get those dogs on the roller machine and place the sandwiches in the cooler. The volunteers also do whatever tasks USO staff request, such as guarding luggage or bringing in supplies from the storage room or collecting donations that are dropped outside. It is such an honor to serve the military personnel and their families and to give them a taste of Southern hospitality.

In October, Georgia Department President Cheryl Waybright joined the work crew and had a blast chatting up and posing with Air Force Women's Basketball Team that were traveling through (photo right). She also showed off a Scoutmaster trick or two and demonstrated the secret of how to keep the buns from getting "crunchy" in the warmer oven. (photo lower right)



Pictured left, Post 66 Legionnaire Robert Morton and Unit 66 Auxiliary member Sarah Zingarelli pose with a photo of Sarah's WW II Marine father Nick. Nick and Ruth Zingarelli were long-time USO volunteers and Sarah continues the tradition.





DEPARTMENT FALL CONFERENCE - DULUTH
OCTOBER 25. 26. 27. 2024
REGISTRATION ONLY

Sonesta Gwinnett Place Atlanta (Non-Smoking Hotel)
 1775 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth, GA 30096 (770-923-1775)

DEADLINE: Friday, October 17, 2024

REGISTRATION INFO

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____ POST: _____ DISTRICT: _____

ARE YOU REGISTERING AS: () Legionnaire () Auxiliary () Sons [Check all that Applies]

YOU MUST MAKE YOUR OWN

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Dial 1-800-766-3782 or USE LINK below

Payment Info: Provide debit/credit card info to the **Sonesta Gwinnett Place Atlanta Hotel**

(Credit card will not be charged until check in. You must contact the hotel within 72 hours of check-in to cancel your reservations or you will be charged). Room Rates: **Taxes, fees, incidentals, not included.*

KING (1-K-bed) \$115.00 or **DOUBLE:** (2-Q-beds) \$115.00

The **Children and Youth Banquet** is on Saturday at 6:00 PM. The cost of the Banquet is \$45.00.

Registration (\$15.00) and or Banquet (\$45.00): Make checks or money orders payable to:

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA

Number attending C & Y Banquet: _____ at \$45.00 per person: _____

Number Registering for Conference: _____ at \$15.00 per person: _____

Reserved Tables for parties of 8: PRINT THE NAMES OF ALL GUESTS YOU ARE PAYING FOR:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Return to: The American Legion, Dept of Georgia 3035 Mt. Zion Road, Stockbridge, GA 30281

Department Executive Committee Meeting is Thursday, 24 October 2024 6:00 PM

DEADLINE: Friday, October 17, 2024

LINK: <https://be.synxis.com/?Hotel=58939&Chain=5157&arrive=2024-10-24&depart=2024-10-28&adult=1&child=0&group=10242024THEA>