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Gail Ramey
Interim President 2024-2025
Department of Georgia

Greetings from the President

Hello Everyone,

It has been an interesting and exciting few months since I became Interim Department President. We hosted the National Auxiliary President, Trish Ward. I want to thank Patty at Department, Posts & Units 163 Statham, 233 Loganville and 296 Marietta for hosting and for making the National President feel welcome. Also thanks to Post & Unit 127 for making National President Trish feel welcome at the 9th District Convention. I want to thank the American Legion Riders who escorted us during the National President’s visit. A special thanks to 2nd Vice President, Pam Eckler for driving and being a great travel companion. Our next big adventure was the Poppy Anchor launching. We were escorted from our hotel to the launch site by the ALR from Post 184 Thunderbolt. They then escorted all who attended the launch to Post 184 for lunch. Food was provided by Post 36 Savannah and prepared and served by Unit 184. It was a beautiful ceremony and there was a good attendance. Thanks to District President Phyllis Jones and her Poppy Anchor Committee for a beautiful Poppy Anchor and for helping with the launching. We were able to salvage some of the poppies and the anchor form for District 10 to use next year. That doesn’t mean District 10 will not need help with getting poppies. Poppy donations will be greatly appreciated as soon as possible since we are having a Mid-Winter Conference which means 2 less months for the District to work on the anchor.

At the Convention in June, we will be electing Department Officers. If you are interested in holding a Department office, please notify Patty at the Department office.

Please know I am here to help in any way I can. My email address is gailramey@msn.com and my phone number is 770-262-2524. If I don’t answer when you call, please leave a number or text and I will get back with you.

I want to thank all of you for the support and encouragement you have given since I became Interim President. If I am fortunate enough to be elected to serve as your President for 2025-2026 I will do my best to guide and support all of you.

Second Vice President *Pam Eckler*



What a whirlwind membership year this has been! As I am writing this, I can tell you we have over fifty units that made 100% of their membership goal this year. One of our newer units is sitting at 276.92% of its goal, and that is some challenging work being done.

My emotions are running all over the place as I write this. I absolutely loved being your Membership Chair this year because I spoke with so many people I have never met or spoken with before, and I love meeting new people. I was also inspired by all our membership and what they did at their units to make their goal. One unit called their members that had not renewed and drove to their houses to pick up their checks for renewal, saving their members postage, and gently reminding them they had forgotten to renew. It is like I said in one of my emails, as we age, we forget things, and so I renew my membership in July. By renewing in July, I am leading by example, but truthfully, I am getting renewal off my plate, so I do not have to think about it again. We have many members in our organization that are up there in years, so it might help if we remember our members sometimes forget.

Our Department now has thirty-two units using ALAMIS full access, including our largest unit Marietta Unit 29. It took a while for Bernadette, Unit 29's Membership Chair, to be convinced to give ALAMIS full access a try, but now she is our biggest advocate for using ALAMIS to manage all your membership needs. All it takes is for Unit to use a debit card, to pay for the membership renewals. You can have receipt of payment sent directly to the Unit Treasurer, so there is never any question about where the money went.

If our Department's Constitution and Bylaws allowed it, I would happily volunteer to be the Department's Membership Chair again, that is how much I genuinely enjoyed it. Alas, this is not allowed so I will be running for the Department's 1st Vice President in June, and I hope to take on the challenge of offering the best Leadership

classes this Department has ever offered. All I will say is, I have already started working on this as learning is a lifelong process. We will be offering a District Leadership class for all new and returning District leaders on Friday, June 27th from 7:30-9:00 a.m. Two of our Past Department President's will be leading this class and providing valuable information and guidance to all District leaders that attend.

On Saturday June 28th, from 7:30-9:00 a.m., I will be providing leadership training for all new and returning Unit leadership, but anyone who is thinking about getting involved in Unit leadership is also welcome to attend. A past District President and I will cover some of the basics of Unit leadership, along with providing valuable information to guiding your unit forward.

The Department of Georgia might not have won any National awards (up until this point), but every single one of you showed your spirit and did the best you could do regarding achieving your Unit goals. Most of you did this without complaint or concern.

As for the upcoming membership year, if elected I am hoping to bring back happiness and fun into our organization. All of us work so hard throughout the year, it is important we have fun and realize the greatness of all the people in our Department. I want to see the past stay in the past as we move gaily forward. I want to see all of us laugh, cry, dance or whatever the spirit tells you to do. Yes, it is important we get Department business accomplished, but it is also important to sit down, play a game of spades, and let others cheat. You know who you are!

No matter what we hear or face over the next few weeks, let us keep the past behind us. We need to focus on making our Department phenomenally successful, and fun organization, again. I hope to see all of you at the convention at the end of this month.

Pam Eckler
670-780-8622 ☎
membership@ALAGeorgia.com

Secretary & Treasurer *Patty Hawkins*



It is time for Convention!

All Department Leaders and Unit Presidents should have received the Call to Convention. Please let me know if you did not receive an email.

If you have not submitted your mandatory forms yet, remember we are all in this together managing the administration of units. Every unit must submit the following by the date listed.

- Unit Dues Rate Change Form 2026 (Due May 1 2025)
- Unit Officers Yearly Form 2025/ 2026 (Due June 3)
- Unit Data Form 2026 (Due June 3)
- Unit Delegates to Department Convention (Due June 7)

Another thing to remember is that if your Unit's (or District's) fiscal year ends June 30 (based on your IRS EIN Letter) your team should be getting ready to audit and submit your IRS 990 on time. Another thing to do is check and make sure you Georgia Secretary of State registration is up to date.

The **24-25 UNIT OBLIGATIONS** were due **April 1** – only delegates from units that are in compliance are eligible to vote at Convention – please check into this and make sure the paperwork and obligations were submitted.

The biggest opportunities all our units have in June and July is conducting a successful transition. National confirms that units' leaders that share knowledge and pass on all paperwork and materials that belong to the unit and support the new leaders are highly successful and its easier for units to not miss a beat in serving our veterans, military, and our communities.

The Department has done a deep dive into updating its constitution, bylaws, and standing rules. At the Department National Leadership Conference, the National Parliamentarian shared very specific directions for making governing documents clearer, accurate and up to date. There are three resolutions that all convention delegates should review. Units and Districts may want to check out their documents too! (**Hint hint**)

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.
Have you sent in your registration forms, remember you must be registered.
Hope to see you at our **Department Convention June 26 DEC., June 27-29th Convention.**

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

Patty Hawkins

Secretary & Treasurer Department of Georgia

678-289-8446 ☎ secamlegaux@bellsouth.net

American Legion Auxiliary History



It's hard to believe that it has been a year since someone mentioned that the Historian job was open and asked if I was interested. I accepted because it was going to give me better insight to the way the Auxiliary has been governed through the years. Reading past histories showed me that the questions I've been asking were the same questions that were asked decades ago. The only differences are the variation of answers. It all comes back to reading your Constitution and Bylaws.

Following National President Trish Ward's visit to both the birthplace and resting place of Moina Michael and National Poppy Day, I put in some investigative time. Moina Michael is not just a name associated with the poppy. "The Poppy Lady" is scattered throughout the histories of both the Legion and the Auxiliary of Georgia. She spoke at many Department of Georgia Conventions, participated with the poppy anchors and received many awards. Miss Michael delivered her idea for the poppy to Charles D. Montgomery Post No. 1 Atlanta on August 18, 1920. At the Department of Georgia Convention a resolution was read and passed to adopt the poppy as official flower of the Legion. The Georgia Delegation took the resolution to the National Convention in Cleveland where it was unanimously adopted. In October 1921 at National Convention the American Legion Auxiliary also adopted the poppy as its official flower.

On page 8 of the 1939 Department History Book I found this letter

GREETINGS FROM OUR "POPPY LADY"

To The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Georgia:

The ancient Romans, in their grandeur days of aspiration and achievements, searched among their patrician maidens for the fairest, the purest and the truest to keep the sacred fires on their holy altars eternally brightly burning.

To me, the women of my "Buddies" of the World War Service are providentially chosen members of the American Legion Auxiliary for the same sacred and beautiful task through the privilege of "Keeping the home fires burning."

To me, you are fairer, purer, truer than the choicest maidens of ancient Rome who so beautifully contributed to the "Grandeur that was Rome."

It has been a "long, long trail a-winding into the land of my dreams....when they would be going down that long, long trail with you". So, it is yours to "Keep the home fires burning"....while God keeps watch over you and America.

**Devotedly
MOINA MICHAEL
Your "Poppy Lady"**

It has been an interesting journey this year. I wish the incoming Department Officers a very successful year. I will still be around, just exchanging a seat on the stage for one on the floor.

**Debbie Hoopingarner
Historian Department of Georgia**



Chaplain
Gloria V. Chambers

Greetings from your Chaplain....

Dear ALA members,

As we approach the closing of another year, I'm reflecting on the journey we've shared together. This year has been a year filled with service, dedication and a commitment to our veterans, military, and their families. I am truly grateful and humbled to have served as the Department of Georgia chaplain I am thankful of the confidence of those who shared prayer needs, concerns and all the hugs , I received at just the right moments.

This year, we have seen numerous emotions, outbursts and first time moments. But I'd like to choose the acts of kindness, support and community sharing we have experienced in our organization. The individual units have proven their participation in their communities, expressing love, caring and a community effort spirit, volunteering endless hours in memory of the fallen. From our participation in memorial services, and patriotic events to the quiet acts of reaching out to those in need, our organization has and does make a difference. We have shared devotional thoughts and prayers . I have mailed countless cards to those in health crisis and those who needed some sunshine, and encouragement to uplift those in difficult times. Your dedication embodies the spirit of "Service Not Self". I want to express my deepest appreciation to our Unit Chaplains and all members who have contributed to our spiritual and emotional well-being. Your prayers, thoughtful gestures and acts of kindness have provided comfort to many. May we carry this spirit of unity forward into the new year, and seek to serve with love, respect and dedication. I can only pray that the new year bring peace, joy and many blessings to you all and your loved ones. May we seek to work together in harmony , bringing honor to the sacrifices of our hero's and make a positive impact in our communities.

Thank you Unit Chaplains for all the reports and prayer books!

With heartfelt gratitude and prayers,

Chaplain Gloria V. Chambers
Department of Georgia





American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Georgia
3035 Mt Zion Road
Stockbridge GA 30281

Around the Department

Poppy Anchor Launch



**Governor Brian Kemp signing the
Poppy Proclamation on April 29, 2025**



**National President Trish Ward visits the
Poppy Lady Sign**



**National President Trish Ward's visit to
Post & Unit 163 Statham**

Announcements: Candidates for Department Officers 2025 – 2026



Unit 127

And

9 District

Has the honor to present

Gail Ramey

As a candidate for

Department President

American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Georgia

2025-2026

*Unit President
Melody Chance*

*Secretary
Judy Farrell*



Heyward Fields

Unit 239

Dahlonega, Georgia

And Ninth District

Has the honor to present

Pamela J. Eckler

As a candidate for

1st Vice President

American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Georgia

2025-2026

*Unit President
Melanie Eckler*

*Secretary
Melanie Eckler*

Announcements Resolutions

Joann Meadows, Chairperson
Resolutions must be in the hands of the
Resolution Chairperson NO later than June 6,
2025. (Note, if postmarked 6/6/25, it is late -
must arrive by June 6, 2025.)

Mail three copies to:

Joann Meadows, Resolutions Chairperson
105 Woodridge Drive, NW Woodridge
Estates, Calhoun GA. 30701-9424

Mail one copy to:

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Georgia C/O
Patty Hawkins, Secretary
3035 Mount Zion Road
Stockbridge GA 30281

to arrive NO later than June 1, 2025.

The 2025 Resolution Form is available at
<https://www.aladeptga.com/forms-1>



Unit 172

Warner Robins, Georgia

And The 6th District

Has the honor to present

Kelli McIver

As a candidate for

Chaplain

American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Georgia

2025-2026

*President
Kelli McIver*

*Secretary
Andrea Price*



Upcoming Events & Dates to Note

JUNE 2025

June is PTSD Awareness Month; Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month; LGBTQ+Pride Month

5/31-6/5 ALA Junior Camp, Ellijay, GA

6/3 Due Date for the Unit Officers Yearly Form 2025

6/3 Due Date for the Unit Data Form (2025 – 2026)

6/6 D-Day

6/7 Due Date for ALA GA Convention Delegate & Alternates 2025 Form

6/8-13 ..Girls State, Valdosta GA 6/12 Women Veterans Day

6/14 Flag Day and U.S. Army Birthday

6/14 U.S. Army Birthday

6/15 *May POPPY DISTRIBUTION proceeds are due in to the Department.

6/19 Juneteenth

6/23 Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday

6/26-29 Department Convention, Duluth GA (DEC Meeting on the 26th at 6pm)

JULY 2024

7/4 Independence Day

7/19-27 Girls Nation, Washington, DC

7/25 National Hire a Veteran Day

7/27 Korean War Veterans Armistice Day (1953)

7/28 National Buffalo Soldiers Day

7/29 Army Chaplain Corps Anniversary

Department President Merchandise

Order your merchandise to help support the Department President's Special Project!

Order Form Available at:

ALADeptGA.com



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