

**AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY**

Georgia
ON MY MIND

Department of Georgia Auxiliary News
June 2024: Volume 15, Issue 4



*Cheryl Jackson Sinkler
President 2023-2024
Department of Georgia*



**SUPPORTING THE
FOUNDATION OF
OUR VETERANS**

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Greetings from the President:

As this administration year end. I would like to thank you ALL for an outstanding year! The support and love I received was amazing! It was my goal to express appreciation toward the members of this great organization for all the hard work you have done over the years. I wanted to ensure your dedication and commitment does not go unnoticed. Without YOU, there would be no US! Again, thank you!

I want to thank the District Presidents, Committees, Staff for accepting your positions and putting in the work. Often, we have had issues with position leads committing to their assignments. However, we must keep in mind that many of us have a life outside of the Organization and sometimes cannot commit 100%. We should appreciate what time that member had available to give and say thank you!

My Special Projects was a success due to ALL of you who assisted in getting the word out by using your resources and voice, and I will be forever grateful. As I stated, in a previous newsletter, the kind donation given to the National President, Lisa Williamson's Special Project, Children and Youth Scholarship, was not expected. To receive the generous amount and support of Georgia will leave an everlasting impression. Again, I cannot thank you enough.

As we move forward, please remember our MISSION always! In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace, and security. It has never been about ONE individual; it is about us ALL.

Drawings for the Quilt will be Saturday, after lunch before we resume! Thank you again for all your support!

Blessings upon blessings!

Cheryl Jackson-Sinkler

President, Department of Georgia

770-875-5987 ★ cheryl.jackson0808@outlook.com

First Vice President & Leadership

Cheryl Waybright

Greetings Georgia ALA Georgia! *Can you believe it!?*

We are in that wild time of winding down while also winding up where transition from one set of unit or district leaders to the next is underway and annual planning and budgeting at the units is in full swing. *(It is, right?)*

I am very thankful for the amazing members and leaders who engaged in **Amp UP! Leadership** and made new friends along the way. Networking with peers is catapulting some of our units to share and do wonderful things. I love to see this happen organically. Enjoy the comradery at your installation ceremonies and leverage those events to thank and welcome all who volunteer - celebrate each other and plan to attend Convention where more accomplishments will be celebrated.

This administrative year we have **AMPed UP! Leadership** by honing our leadership skills with eagerness to learn and take action to focus relentlessly on the mission of the ALA. This all helps us build unit foundational strength when many, rather than one or two, are sharing in keeping an eye on the organization. We spent a lot of time on the basics of compliance and governance and in many cases found that leaning into governing documents really does keep the peace and help the unit run smoother. I have enjoyed the countless conversations and unit visits to tackle tough issues and to celebrate accomplishments. Your participation in our Leadership Learning Labs, Tune-In and Tune-Up Tuesdays and reading those long emails has helped the Department grow stronger. Do not' stop now!

Looking ahead, *(OH, we have heard this before... begin with the end in mind...)* the 2024-2025 administrative year is going to build further on what we have done in Georgia. The Leading Candidate for National President 2024-2025 is setting the stage and will be **Leading The Way** with a focus on the health of our units with this mindset, nationwide:

- Small town rural environments are struggling. *WE'RE going to help them.*
- Leadership capacity is dwindling. *WE'RE going to grow it.*
- Membership is aging and churning. *WE'RE going to revitalize it.*
- Infrastructure is weakening. *WE'RE going to strengthen it.*

AMPing UP! Leadership in 23-24 was all about striving to focus on mission and align efforts around The American Legion Four Pillars while increasing knowledge and elevate leader abilities. The best was all that creativity around the state – members are motivated! **Do not Stop! In fact, get ready to #AmpUpMission** by planning “JUST ONE THING” (or more) this coming year in each of the Four Pillar program areas – VA&R, Children & Youth, National Security and Americanism. Work those themes into being visible in the community and draw in new members by working the program. And Poppys too.

And Girls State recruiting.... *So, six things...*

A big shout out and thank you to all units who submitted reports and the units and districts that submitted Yearbooks. Somehow there were zero districts that submitted leadership reports...there is an award for that! There is some amazing leadership going on in this department. I cannot wait to celebrate the many accomplishments at Convention.

And of course, the more the merrier – fill out this survey if you think you want to contribute in some way at the Department level in the coming year(s).

<https://forms.gle/WERUbJN1G3jJsxhd7>

We are in this together and when we lift everyone, we all achieve more. Share, listen, learn, apply. I have an open door policy. I welcome questions from all members and unit leaders by email, text, and phone.

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU ARE DOING! UT PROSIM!

Cheryl Waybright

First Vice President, Department of Georgia
404-625-6708 ★ clwaybright@gmail.com



**MISSION MATTERS:
AMP UP! LEADERSHIP
FOR UNIT FOUNDATIONAL STRENGTH**
Department of Georgia
2023-2024



Stay Connected:

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

- Need a form? <https://www.aladeptga.com/forms-1>
- Need to find a department leader?
https://www.aladeptga.com/about_us
- ...or department committee chair?
<https://www.aladeptga.com/committee-chairpersons>
- What about the Department Governing Documents?
<https://www.aladeptga.com/governing-documents>

Department **Public** Facebook Page:

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

Department **Private** Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/alaga> In this group you can ask questions and post information about your unit and district.

PR Contact: GeorgiaALAPR@gmail.com

Membership Clerk: amlegaux@bellsouth.net

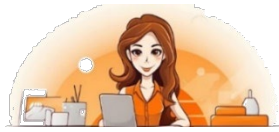
Secretary/Treasurer: secamlegaux@bellsouth.net

Compliance Information (Is your unit/district legal?):

<https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/audit/important-compliance-information>

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 a packet.

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 2025 (Due May 1)
- Unit Officers Yearly Form 2025 (Due June 1)
- Unit Data Form 2025 (Due June 2)
- 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 23-24 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 it's 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)

Newsletter: For 2024-2025 we will have monthly newsletters. 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 20th of the month is the deadline for submitting articles. Let us #AmpUpMission.

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

Patty Hawkins

Secretary & Treasurer Department of Georgia
678-289-8446 ★ secamlegaux@bellsouth.net

PS: the office remains temporarily closed because renovation.

Second Vice President - Membership

Gail Ramey

MUSH MUSH! Greetings from Membership! Our musher Peaches says HELLO!

Hello to all the hard-working members who are "mushing" toward our membership goal.

Georgia is currently at 88.59% at National and is 6th in the Southern Division and 25th in the Nation.

We missed the deadline for getting 95%, however, if we continue working membership we can hit the 100% mark by July 4th.



Please remember, any member who has not renewed is no longer a member in good standing and has no voice or vote in your Unit or District. I am proud to say we currently have 28 Goal Units. Several Units are very close. Dig deep and make your goal. Do those buddy checks and reach out to the members who have not renewed.

Do not forget, the membership year is not over – please keep renewing members all the way through the end of August. Enroll new members and do not HOLD those memberships – get them in as quickly as possible no matter the date. Bring new members to the Convention!

Thanks to all the Units who submitted Membership reports. I have submitted my membership report to the Southern Division Chair and to the National Chair.

I am confident we will make strides together to reach higher! **Let us MAKE goal ASAP! Let us get MUSHING!**

Remember – Our theme for membership nationally is Mushing for Membership.

In Georgia, our membership theme is Supporting Veterans Begins With Membership

I am looking forward to seeing you at Department Convention and presenting some awards. Remember, I am here to help in any way possible. Please do not hesitate to call on me when you need help.

Thank you for all you do!

Gail Ramey

2nd Vice President – Membership, Department of Georgia
770-262-2524 ★ gailramey@msn.com

Historian

Pam Eckler

It is so hard to believe my term as the Historian for the Georgia American Legion Auxiliary is almost over.



This year has taught me so much about the love that exudes from so many of our members. I have read some great History Reports, Cavalcade of Memories, and Public Relations Reports. I have seen firsthand and read about all the amazing things our Units across Georgia are doing for our veterans, the military, and their families. I have been invited to and participated in meals for all military past and present as well as our First Responders. After every event I just cannot believe what all of us can do when we work together.

Next up for me is Georgia Girls State and I am so looking forward to it. Want to talk about some History? This year I am celebrating my 50th anniversary of attending Girls State, and my love for Girls State has only grown.

The one thing I still have not been able to figure out with our members and their Units is why they can take the time to write their Unit's History, but they cannot take the time to toot their own horn on our Facebook group and page. Believe in what you are doing and be proud! So many Units are doing such phenomenal things, from trunk or treat, to Christmas for Children, to Poppy Friday and of course the beautiful poppy anchor.

I am asking you as we move forward, toot your own horn! Let everyone know what wonderful things you are doing and why you are doing them.

Keep track of everything your members and Units do throughout the year, and I will bet you will surprise yourself. I want to thank you for electing me to be your Historian and giving me the privilege of reading all you have done. I would make this article a little longer, but since I too have a History book due, I need to save my fingertips.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the end of June, and as always if you need anything, you know how to reach me. For those of you that will not be at our Department Convention, have a summer filled with love and make great memories.

Pam Eckler

Historian - Department of Georgia

670-780-8622 ★ pjeckler@gmail.com

Join our Department of GA History Facebook Group and ask questions! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/221964339808608>

Chaplain

Sabrina Putney

2023 - 2024 What a year! We have truly been blessed. As I look back and reflect, the time has been well spent. We have lost several along the way that will be forever in our hearts.

We have built new friendships and bonds that are unbreakable and memories that we will never forget. Most importantly we were a team that prayed together.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 "Therefore encourage and build one another up, just as you are already doing."

As we close out this administrative year, I encourage you to remain diligent and true to the mission that we are called by serving Veterans, their Families, and their communities. Keep them in your prayers.

I have met some wonderful people on this journey, and I want to thank you for all that you have done to make my position so pleasant. You were amazingly easy to work for. I am grateful and humbled by this experience.

Thank you for all the reports that I have received. You truly have been doing the work of an ALA chaplain on the unit and district levels.

To my DEC thank you for allowing me to serve. It is my prayer that 24-25 comes with great ideas and commitment for the Veterans. Stay focused with your eyes on the prize.

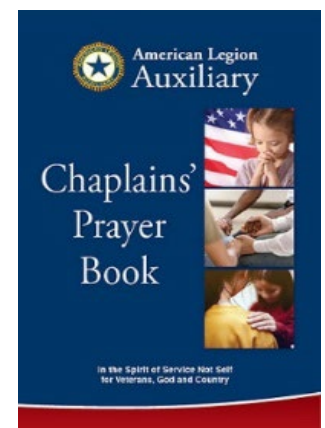
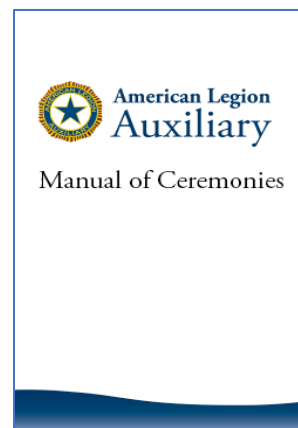
Together we can! I am looking forward to remarkable things in the future.

Peace and Blessings and our better days are ahead.

Sabrina Brown-Putney

Chaplain, Department of Georgia

912 272-1745 ★ sabrinaputney@yahoo.com



POPPY ANCHOR LAUNCH – MAY 28, 2024

Even with a last minute change in vessel, the day of memorial and comradery was a success. Instead of the Coast Guard Cutter, which was called to National Security Duty, the amazing First District team pulled another historical boat out of the back river, and we boarded early morning for a very moving ceremony with Captain Derek and crew.

In case you did not know: “One tradition using poppies begun by Moina Michael honors those military servicemen and women lost at sea. Each year, American Legion Auxiliary members, along with veterans and families, board boats and take an anchor made of poppies to be dropped at sea. The tradition started in Savannah, Ga. The United States Naval Academy for many years also took on the tradition. Moina’s inspiration for this poppy anchor came from a grieving mother whose son had wanted to join the Navy in 1918. The mother told Moina that she expected her son to join the Army. In that way, she said, if he were killed, there would be a grave and some memorial, or at least some flowers. To please his mother, the son gave in and joined the Army. But he died when his ship was sunk by a German submarine. The distraught mother’s pleas caused Moina to promise her that there would be flowers for her son and for all those lost at sea in time of war. In many ways, Moina’s early life became the spark for her passionate support of America’s veterans.”

<https://www.legion-aux.org/blog/moina-michael-the-poppy-lady>



Left to right: Chaplain Sabrina Brown-Putney, First Vice President Cheryl Waybright, Second Vice President Gail Ramey, President Cheryl Jackson Sinkler, National Executive Committeemember, Susan Hall, and Sergeant-at-Arms, Earnastine Johnson.

POPPY ANCHOR LAUNCH – MAY 28, 2024



AROUND THE DEPARTMENT:

Albany Unit 30 (2nd District) held their very own Poppy Anchor Dedication and Launch this morning. Little Miss Poppy was on-hand for both. Pictured right are ALA Unit 30 Ms. Poppy, Marilyn Fowler, and Gary Fowler with the Poppy Anchor at Chehaw Lake.



Left, Debbie Hoopingartner of Powder Springs Unit 294 (5th District) displays the crocheted poppies she prepared to exchange for donations.



Right: Union County Middle School in Blairsville, GA (9th District) conducted a "Wax Museum" history project for which Charlie L. selected Moína Belle Michael aka "The Poppy Lady". Nancy Kunz, President of Unit 121 Blairsville, donated some poppies for the effort especially since children and youth is one of the four pillars of The American Legion. Her assignment went very well and those that toured the wax museum loved her project.

TUNNEL TO TOWERS BREAKS GROUND

Building New Residential Facility for Homeless Veterans in The Fifth District

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting America's first responders, Gold Star families and military veterans, is bringing its commitment to eradicating veteran homelessness to the Atlanta area. The organization held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new "Atlanta Veterans Village" on May 17th in the City of Mableton.

Tunnel to Towers will turn the former Wingate by Wyndham hotel into a 103-unit Veterans Village. Male and female veterans will be able to live in the facility.

Long-term living spaces will include apartments with a bedroom, living room, kitchen, and bathroom. The renovated facility will also have a gym, business center, great room, cafeteria, and commercial kitchen.

The facility in Mableton is part of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation's [Homeless Veteran Program](#). T2T is committed to ending veteran homelessness nationwide and is in the process of several transformative projects aimed at making a tangible difference in the lives of those it serves. A similar project was completed by T2T last November in Houston, TX where T2T converted a former hotel into a high-end, affordable apartment complex, providing permanent and transitional housing to more than 100 veterans in the greater Houston area. Additionally, T2T is in various stages of developing other Veterans Villages across the U.S.

More information about T2T's Homeless Veteran program can be found [here](#). About Tunnel to Towers Foundation: The Tunnel to Towers Foundation is dedicated to honoring the sacrifice of FDNY Firefighter Stephen Siller, who laid down his life to save others on September 11, 2001. For more than 20 years, the Foundation has supported our nation's first responders, veterans, and their families by providing these heroes and the families they leave behind with mortgage-free homes. For more about the Tunnel to Towers Foundation and its commitment to DO GOOD, please visit [T2T.org](#). Follow Tunnel to Towers on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at @Tunnel2Towers.

Adapted from: <https://t2t.org/breaking-ground-tunnel-to-towers-foundation-building-new-residential-facility-for-homeless-veterans-in-austell-ga/>

Representing the ALA Department of Georgia at this event were Susan Hiott, City Clerk with the City of Mableton and member of Smyrna Unit 160 and Department First Vice President, Cheryl Waybright.



Pictured above are community leaders, corporate partners, and representatives from T2T officially kicking-off the ground breaking.



DEPARTMENT CONVENTION 2024 COMING UP!

Thursday 6/27

6pm DEC Meeting

then **GA Girls State Meeting**

Friday 6/28

9am Convention

Saturday 6/29

9am Convention

6pm Department Banquet

Sunday 6/30

**8:30am Memorial followed immediately
by ALA Installation, DEC Meeting and
Georgia Girls State Meeting**



The Call to the 2024 ALA Department of Georgia Convention can be found at this link: here: <https://www.aladeptga.com/>

All ALA members are asked to register online at this link before June 10: <https://georgialeion.org/events/dept-of-ga-annual-convention/> Cost is \$15 per member. Tickets to the Commanders Banquet – Saturday, June 29, 2024 at 6:00 PM are also available. **HOTEL RESERVATIONS:** 1-800-766-3782: 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. **Offline Registration** - Use this form: <https://georgialeion.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/2405-03-Department-Convention-with-Shirt-2024-Fillable.pdf>

Mail Registration Form & Check(s) to 3035 Mt Zion Rd, Stockbridge, GA 30281. **Make Check(s) Payable to:** American Legion Department of Georgia **REGISTRATION – \$15.00 DEADLINE JUNE 10, 2024**

2024- 2025 MERCHANDISE ORDER UPDATE:

All items for those that ordered before Memorial Day will be available for pick-up at the Department Convention. A new order form is available – there's still time to support the President's Special Project for 2024-2025.

The order form can be found in the Department Facebook Group (Files) and by clicking [HERE](#)

A few things have changed for the better – check out the merchandise information by clicking [HERE](#)

2024-2025 MERCHANDISE Orders Due 7/16/24 for pick-up at or before National Convention 2024



Click here to 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
AND send payment by Zelle to orders@alageorgia.com
This fundraiser supports the 2024-2025
GA Department President's Special Project.

**#AmpUpMission
2024-2025**

Announcements: Candidates for Department Officers 2024 – 2025



The Fifth District and
Unit 160 Smyrna
Have the honor to present
Cheryl Waybright
As candidate for
PRESIDENT
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Georgia
2024-2025

Thea Fultz

President, Fifth District

Kari Marschark

President, Unit 160



Unit 127 Sugar Hill
Has the honor to present
Gail Ramey
As a candidate for
1ST VICE PRESIDENT
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Georgia
2024-2025

Gail Ramey
President

Judy Farrell
Secretary

Announcements Resolutions

Joann Meadows, Chairperson

Resolutions must be in the hands of the Resolution
Chairperson NO later than June 6, 2024. (Note, if
postmarked 6/6/24, it is late - must **arrive** by June 6, 2024.)

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, 2024.

The 2024 Resolution Form is available at
<https://www.aladeptga.com/forms-1>



Heyward Fields Unit 239
Dahlonega, Georgia
and the Ninth District
Have the honor to present
Pamela J. Eckler
As a candidate for
2ND VICE PRESIDENT
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Georgia
2024-2025

Pamela Eckler
Unit President

Melanie Eckler
Unit Secretary



Upcoming Events & Dates to Note

First of Every Month – wear BE THE ONE Branded Shirts.

EVERY FRIDAY IS **RED** Shirt Friday (**R**emembering **E**veryone **D**eported) Wear a red shirt!

JUNE 2024

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

6/1 Due Date for the Unit Officers Yearly Form 2024

6/2 Due Date for the Unit Data Form (2024 – 2025)

6/7 Due Date for Unit Delegates to Department Convention 2024

6/1-6.....ALA Junior Camp, Villa Rica GA

6/6 D-Day

6/8 Due Date for ALA GA Convention Delegate & Alternates 2023 Form

6/9-14..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

6/27-30 Department Convention, Duluth GA (DEC Meeting on the 27th at 6pm)

JULY 2024

7/4 **Independence Day**

7/25 **National Hire a Veteran Day**

7/27 Korean War Veterans Armistice Day (1953)

7/4 Independence Day

7/20-27 Girls Nation, Washington, DC

7/25 Department Executive Committee Zoom 7:30 pm

7/27 **Korean War Veterans Armistice Day (1953)**

7/28 National Buffalo Soldiers Day

7/29 Army Chaplain Corps Anniversary

2023-2024

National President's Theme:

Be The One

Georgia President Theme:

Supporting the Foundation
of our Veterans

Georgia Leadership Theme:

Mission Matters: Amp Up!
Leadership

Membership Theme:

Supporting Veterans Begins
With Membership

***Service Not Self is the ALA
motto and the cornerstone of
all that we do.***



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Georgia

3035 Mt Zion Road

Stockbridge GA 30281

