





November 2025 Volume 18 Issue 2

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Gail Ramey President 2025-2026 Department of Georgia

Greetings from the President

Hello Everyone,

I am very sorry that we were not able to get a newsletter out in September. We had a lot going on that took precedence. Some of the information in my article is a little outdated but I feel it's important to state so here goes. I believe everyone who attended the National Convention in Tampa had a great time. We had several folks who attended for the first time, and they have told me they really learned a lot. It is always great to connect with folks from other Departments and to see what Units across the Nation are doing. I was also honored to be installed at the National level by our new National President, Pam Ray. 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.

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.

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

Greetings from the President, continued

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 you Juniors and encourage them to attend since it will be in Atlanta and travel will be minimal.

Now, some new news. I was honored to attend the Veterans Day Celebration and the celebration for the Marine Corp Birthday at the Capital on Thursday, Nov. 6th. Several Auxiliary members attended. It is great that Governor Kemp supports or Veterans. I have also been invited to attend the Veterans Day Parade in Atlanta on Saturday, Nov. 8th and to sit in the reviewing stand.

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 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.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!

If you are traveling, please be safe.

Gail Ramey
Department President





Department President Merchandise

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

Order Forms is on <u>Page</u>9 or 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



First Vice President Pam Eckler

Leadership training started early this year with training being held at our June Convention for Unit and District leaders. In late September, a District Presidents' Bootcamp was held over three days at the At Ease Campground and Marina, in Bainbridge, Georgia. I highly encourage all members to check out this beautiful place where members of Post and Unit 340 are doing some phenomenal things for our veterans. When you have the time go to

AtEaseCampgroundandMarina.com.

This training was held for the District Presidents to encourage them to become more involved with their Districts by sharing information. The District President's role on the Department Executive Committee was also discussed as they represent the voices of their members in their district.

As time has passed, I realized many of our members do not register for Leadership Training as they have no desire to become a Unit, District or Department leader. I totally understand many members feeling this way, but members should always remember their voice matters with our Department.

All District Presidents have been encouraged to hold a Leadership training within their District as soon as possible. Unit leadership, if you are interested in holding a training at your Unit, please reach out to your District President. If your District President does not respond, feel free to contact me.

Currently we have two training courses scheduled for 2026, so far. A training course will be held on Saturday, January 17th, in conjunction with the Polar Plunge sponsored by the Sons of the Legion. On Saturday, March 14th training will be held at Unit 172 Warner Robbins.

Training is for every member of our Department, not just leaders or those that are thinking about becoming a leader. This year we will be covering information that has not been provided in the past, so I highly encourage everyone to attend. Also, bring your questions you want answered. If you have a question, the odds are there is someone else in our Department that has that very same question. There is no such thing as dumb or ridiculous questions, so bring your questions forward.

In case you have not noticed or been told, our Department is moving forward with many projects that will make our Department better for all. Unit leaders now understand the importance of using ALAMIS for their membership renewals, transfers and enrolling new members, so if you have not done so, enroll in ALAMIS as it saves your Unit money, and your membership Chair time. Our Department was one of six that achieved the first National membership goal this year, and as of this writing we can win another award if we can achieve 50% renewal by November 17th, so let us do this!

We have requested proposals from accountants to complete an audit of our Department's financial records, something that was voted on and approved of a while ago. Once we have the audit completed our Department will be eligible for future grants which can be used for many projects to move our Department forward. We voted on and approved the "suspension" of the 25% requirement of poppy monies being sent to the Department. It was felt if all units pay the same cost as the Department pays for poppies, we could easily waive the 25% remittance from each Unit, as it is more important for the units to have the ability to perform their mission.

So many positive changes are happening within our Department, and you can learn about all of them if you attend the training held in your District. Become informed even if you have no desire to become a leader. Remember, information is power, but only if you share the information with others.

John Qunicy Adams said, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, than YOU are a leader." I think we can all agree this quote applies to our personal and American Legion Auxiliary tasks. I look forward to seeing all of you at our Mid-Winter Conference. I hope all of you have holidays filled with love, laughter, and great memories!

Pam Eckler 1st Vice President/Leadership Chair (670) 780-8622





2nd Vice President **Joyce Jenkins**



"Flying to the Top with ALA Department of Georgia"

Georgia can fly to the top with everyone putting forth the effort. Each of you are very important to this organization. Get those memberships into the Department so we can become #1 in the Southern Division. We were so close in 2024-2025 year. We can do it!

Congratulations 502 Bainbridge Unit 22 for being the first to achieve your goal and reaching 100%. Who will be next? Thank you Bainbridge for leading the way. We CAN do it! It is obtainable, so let's Fly to the Top ALA Department of Georgia.

Joyce Jenkins 2nd Vice President/Membership Chair Department of Georgia American Legion Auxiliary





Historian Precilla Woody



Hello to all ALA members:

Some of you know me as Precilla Woody while others call me Prissy. Prissy is the nickname my father gave me, so feel free to call me Prissy. I look forward to working and getting to know each Unit and District Historian this upcoming year.

I feel that 2025-2026 is going to be a year full of amazing activities and events, each being a part of our history. History is an important part of our lives, without it we might repeat all the good and bad times again and we would never grow or progress with time. With each year's history we can use it as a guideline for success. I have read through some of my unit's history books and have been inspired by the things that they accomplished.

Each of you should be well on your way on compiling your unit's history. If you jot down when your unit or district has had an event or activity it will make it so much easier when it comes to writing your history book and reports. If you're not sure what needs to be done and haven't started, it's still early enough to go back and start. Also, go on the ALA website and print off the History Report Form and History Book guidelines they tell you everything you need to keep up with. Remember to always jot down everything the auxiliary is involved in, then answer the why, where and when the event was held. Also, how many members participated, how much money you spent, and did you accomplished what you set out to do. I do know that some start their history when they have their elections, while others start after the Department convention and then some don't start until their installation of officers. Remember the history reports are due to your district and to me by May 1st and your history books are due to me by June 15^{th.} Please start your books by at least Memorial Day that way you will have the full year of history for your unit and district.

Please remember to share your units/district activities and events with me, I too will be compiling a history book for the Department and you're a big part of it. Please help me and feel free to contact me if there is anything I can help you with.

Precilla Woody
Historian
Department of Georgia
(770) 378-6496
prissywoody@bellsouth.net





Poppy Chair Cathey Hedges



The Poppy Page 2025-2026

With this new year, the Department of Georgia has a special opportunity to honor our history and veterans. "USA 250 Anniversary Celebration" is fast approaching in July 2026. Our units can plan now to honor this remarkable celebration of our country's freedom and those that answered the call to serve and protect. Incorporating poppies into your plans will be an easy and effective means to draw interest while educating our communities about the history and significance of the poppy.

Our Department of Georgia Poppy Financial Report will not incorporate the assessment of 25% in this budgeted year. Use this opportunity to grow your efforts to help our veterans.

At the ALA National Convention, there was a resolution presented and passed to allow poppy funds to aid members of the National Guard and Reserves. Our cities and communities are relying on the service of these individuals to maintain law and order on a regular basis.

POPPY FUNDS GUIDELINES for the AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY:

- 1. The rehabilitation of veterans honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces after April 6, 1917.
- 2. The welfare of the families of veterans of the above-named period.
- 3. The rehabilitation of hospitalized military service personnel returning home and awaiting discharge who require treatment in service hospitals.
- 4. The welfare of veterans, active military personnel, and the families of veterans and active military personnel of the above-named period where financial and medical need is evident.
- 5. For the purpose of poppy kits and supplies used to make symbolic poppies and poppy items that will be distributed for donations to the Poppy Fund.
- 6. Honor Flights and Guardian Fees.
- 7. ASYMCA Food Pantries.
- 8. Grocery or gas cards for veterans in need.
- 9. Items of necessity for homeless veterans or hospitalized service members.
- 10. Poppy kits or supplies for poppy distribution.

Cathy Hedges Poppy Chair Department of Georgia (770) 597-8667



PR Chair Kellie Freeman



We are pleased to announce our new Department website is now live on Webador. We hope you enjoy the new look and features that have been added. Thank you for your support during this transition. If you experience any issues or have questions about the new website, we're here to help! Please reach out to the us at aladeptga.pr@gmail.com, or use the contact form available on the site.

The following new features have been added to the website that we hope you will find useful:

- Calendar of Events: Stay up-to-date with Department happenings through our interactive calendar. You can now submit your own events directly on the site—just fill out the submission form and upload your event flyer! Once approved, your event will show on the calendar. This feature ensures everyone has the opportunity to share important dates and information with anyone who visits the website.
- Discussion Forum: Connect and collaborate through our new Discussion Forum, a dedicated space for sharing resources, asking questions, and exchanging ideas. All members are encouraged to participate and contribute, helping us build a supportive and engaged environment.
- Photo Galleries: Upload your photos the our new Photo Galleries. You will find that there are two
 galleries, one for Around the Department and one for Girls State. To submit your photo, fill out the
 form with information about the photo, attach your photo and submit. Once approved, your photo
 will show in the gallery that your choose.

If you have any issues submitting your event, comments or photos, please email us at aladeptga.pr@gmail.com and we will be happy to assist you. As you know anytime you have new features, there are always some kinks to work out so we appreciate your patience with us.

Kellie Freeman PR Chair <u>aladeptga.pr@gmail.com</u> (706) 949-4727





Georgia Girls State Bulletin November 2025

Georgia Girls State will be held in Valdosta, Georgia at Valdosta State University June 7-12, 2026 QUALIFICATIONS: Interest in government, leadership, citizenship, honesty, scholarship, character, and completion of their junior year in high school.

ORIENTATION: Orientation should be a part of your Girls State plan so that the girls and their parents understand in advance what to expect upon arrival. Please call on a staff member or former citizen in your area to help with your orientation if help is needed.

PUBILICITY: Unit chairmen, be sure to contact local media for coverage as soon as your delegates have been selected. Many newspapers are willing to publish pictures and short articles about the program. Invite delegates to a unit meeting after the session to report to the unit.

**FEE: Checks must be made out to Georgia Girls State and mailed to the Department Headquarters. Send the fee of \$350.00 per girl to the American Legion Auxiliary Department Headquarters, 3035 Mt. Zion Road, Stockbridge, GA 30281 before April 20, 2026 to assure space for your girls. Call the director for late payments of fees. Please DO NOT hold your unit check for fees just to make sure your girls are attending before paying. This really hurts our program. Any money that is sent in helps Georgia Girls State even if your girls don't attend. No money is paid to the University until after Girls State. We only pay for those attending. If your girl backs out at the last minute, there are other worthy girls that the money can cover. It can also be a donation to the program to help cover other costs. We have expenses to pay before the session begins, so please do not hold the fees. Parents nor family members should not pay the fee for their daughter.

DISTRICTS: Each district is to elect a counselor and pay a \$350.00 counselor fee. Please notify the director upon the election and have the counselor send the director a resume. Even if your district doesn't elect a counselor, the fee is still to be paid. I need counselors: Please contact me if interested!!

APPLICATIONS: The 2026 online application will be available on the website on March 1, 2026. After your unit pays for the girls you plan to sponsor, you will receive codes to give to your girls. The girls will be given the website so that they can go on line and complete the application using the codes they are given. The application process will be explained at the Mid Winter Conference by the Girls State Tech Staff members. Please plan on having a unit representative attend if possible. The time and place will be announced prior to the Conference. The application will be filled out online so there's no printing and filling out the document. This will alleviate many mistakes and eliminate problems with illegible handwriting. Keep a copy of your girls' contact information for future correspondence with the girls.

WEBSITE: www.georgiagirlsstate.org Find information and all documents needed for girls' packets.

EMAIL: Georgia Girls State email: georgiagirlsstate@gmail.com for the director, Deedy Harrell

PHONE number: Deedy 770-337-7997 Call or text; the Assistant Director, Gabriele Barnett: Cell 706-951-3906 (call or text) or email: barnettgabriele@hotmail.com Application manager: Cynthia Orms: (478) 232-4831 georgiagirlsstate.tech@gmail.com

APRIL 20, 2026 Checks for \$350.00 per girl due to the Department Headquarters.

May 15, 2026 Complete online applications

June 7, 2026 Arrival at Girls State between 1:00 and 3:00 PM

June 12, 2026 Graduation at 8:45 AM and departure by 1:00 PM

Delays cause your girls to have difficulty in getting prepared for the program. If you find out that a girl is not attending after completing an application, please let us know. We make phone calls to all no shows, and it will help us if we can limit the number of calls necessary. Let us know even up the last day.

Please join the Girls State Booster Club!! Call Pat Morgan (229) 561-4070 for details.

Deedy Harrell, Director georgiagirlsstate@gmail.com 770-337-7997



Upcoming Events & Dates to Note

November 2025

- National Veterans & Military Family Month
- Warrior Care Month
- National Family Caregivers Month
- Native American Heritage Month (American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month)
- 11/10 Marine Corp Birthday
- 11/11 Veterans Day
- 11/27 Thanksgiving Day

December 2025

Universal Human Rights Month

- 12/1 Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary) Birthday
- 12/2 #Giving Tuesday
- 12/3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- 12/7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 12/13 U.S. National Guard Birthday (1636)
- 12/13 Wreaths Across America Day
- 12/14 Hanukkah
- 12/15 Bill of Rights Day
- 12/20 United States Space Force (USSF) Birthday 2
- 12/25 Christmas
- 12/26 Kwanzaa
- 12/31 New Year's Eve



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 • (770) 262-2524

*Make checks payable to ALA Department of Georgia Delivery date and delivery options TBD.

Is this a consolidated Unit Order? Will you need your order shipped?		If "Yes", please list main point of contact and information If "Yes", please add the shipping cost of \$3.00 per shirt/jacket
Date Ordered:		_
Name:		
Address:		
Phone:		E-mail:



Port Authority® Ladies Silk Touch™ Polo Red





Lapel Pin Department of Georgia 2025-2026





Product Measurements:

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

Polo Shirt	\$ \$25.00	M \$25.00	L \$25.00	XL \$25.00	2XL \$28.00	3XL \$28.00	Total
QTY							
Jacket	S \$40.00	M \$40.00	L \$40.00	XL \$40.00	2XL \$42.00	3XL \$45.00	Total
QTY							
Pins	\$3.00 Each						Total
QTY							
QTY			T	OTAL OF I	TEMS OF	RDERED=	
QTY			T	OTAL OF		RDERED= G COST=	