



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA

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**NEWS TO USE**

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Membership is Amping Up!**

As of February 12, 2025, Georgia is 9<sup>th</sup> in the Southern Division and 38<sup>th</sup> Nationally. **Please keep those renewals coming in.** Shout out to all 21 National 100% Membership Award Units! (Page 11)

**LEADERSHIP**

The National ALA Academy has MORE CONTENT! See page 6 for more information and the schedule for Leadership Workshops.

**AMERICANISM: February is Americanism Month!**

A lot is happening! There’s a “You’re a Grand Old Flag” National Challenge and ESSAYS are due. See page 5. Details are posted in the featured section (at the top) of the Department Facebook Group - check out the featured posts. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/alaga>

**SCHOLARSHIPS ARE DUE MARCH 1**

See the information and links on page 8.

**THE LATEST GENERATION**

**April is the Month of the Military Child.** Is your unit ready? See page 8 for more information.

**SPRING CONFERENCE**

**March 21-23, 2025:** The DEC meets 3/20. Conference begins at 9am on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>; the banquet is on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and the Memorial Service and Poppy Anchor Dedication Program is on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Join in the dedication to thank the 11<sup>th</sup> District for building the Poppy Anchor. Register [HERE](#). Form on page 22.

**REPORTING**

It’s a dirty word but we really need to do it! See page 15 for tips and tricks. NOW is the time to really get started if your unit hasn’t already. Don’t forget those History, Prayer, and Scrap Books too!

**LEGISLATIVE**

The American Legion’s Legislative Agenda for the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress is now available. It is time to get signed up, become aware, and advocate. See page 19.

**RESOLUTIONS EXPLAINED**

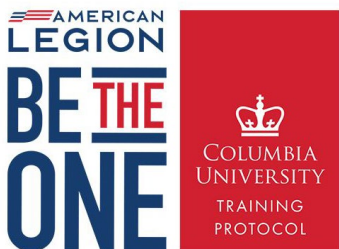
See page 13 for information on what a resolution is and the rules in the Department of Georgia ALA.

**AND MORE!**

Buckle-up – read on and ENGAGE!

## BE THE ONE

Get ready to share what your unit and district are doing to support this critical mission of The American Legion. Georgia has two awards for Be The One Suicide Prevention Recognition. Please see page 47 of the Department Rules and Regulations for awarding department plaques. Go to the top of [THIS PAGE](#) on the Department website. (Resources – Forms) Submit reports to VA&R Chair Miriam Stein.



<https://www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one>

As part of The American Legion Be the One mission to end veteran suicide, the Legion has joined forces with Columbia University to develop training for those who want to learn more about interacting and responding with veterans who may be in crisis. After the training, participants will be able to:

- Use the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale to determine at-risk individuals.
- Identify risk factors and warning signs
- Outline the types of suicidal ideation and four behaviors that indicate imminent risk.
- Communicate effectively with an individual who may be at risk of hurting themselves.
- Members of The American Legion Family are encouraged to take part in this training and share the training with their communities. Check back to this page or subscribe to **The American Legion Online Update newsletter** to receive information about new training opportunities as they become available.

Register to attend an online session at this link: <https://www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one/be-the-one-training>

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** All attendees will be asked to complete an online survey before the class and upon completion. These surveys help track the effectiveness of the training and allow us to plan for future development.

See leadership video [HERE](#)

## CHAPLAIN

Gloria V. Chambers



.....LOVE.....

Greetings to all.....

I didn't have to look hard to find the things we LOVE individually. I just randomly looked at some social media pages. The LOVE is blooming in photos, events and the passions of the heart. The love of spouses, children, pets, volunteer work, church, job accomplishments, our flower gardens, and the joys of reaching out to others in everyday life experiences. Those play it forward heartwarming stories.

The smile shared with people along the journey we call life. Our hearts are filled with LOVE seeing a newborn baby, a hug, an unexpected note from a friend. LOVE, GOD teaches is the greatest of all. LOVE others as you love yourself. LOVE your neighbor. LOVE the unlovely. We are challenged daily to have a healthy heart of LOVE.

1. The heart that loves is always healthy.
2. The heart that serves is always happy.
3. The heart that cares is always strong.
4. The most useful asset of a person is a beautiful heart, full of love and ears open to listen and hands willing to help that can bring things into your life that all the money in the world couldn't obtain.

♥ no beauty shines brighter than that of a good heart ....LOVE ♥

I would like to say thank you to all the prayer warriors for the ones that lifted up Thea Fultz. Past President Pat Morgan and Susan Hall who continues to heal. We also need to remember the family of Marie Dennis, Unit 264 of Mableton who passed.

**My prayers for each and everyone.** Please feel free to call or text me with any prayer concerns or needs. My LOVE and prayers. ♥ 🙏



May God 's blessings surround each of you each day in His Love.

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.

Psalm 46:1-2

I look forward to seeing and reading all chaplains prayer books... Shower me with blessings. ♥

Gloria Chambers

912-390-2488 ★ [chaplain@ALAGeorgia.com](mailto:chaplain@ALAGeorgia.com)

## 2024-2025 LEADERSHIP

President..... Cheryl Waybright  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President ..... Gail Ramey  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President..... Pam Eckler  
 Historian..... Debbie Hoopingarner  
 Chaplain ..... Gloria Chambers  
 Secretary/Treasurer ..... Patty Hawkins  
 NEC ..... Susan Hall  
 NEC Alternate ..... Pat Morgan

Sergeants at Arms  
 Captain.....Melanie Eckler  
 Cricket Agee, Melinda Gaskins  
 Lindsey Coats, Melissa Patten

Page/Parliamentary Advisor Thea Fultz

## MISSION COMMITTEES

Veterans Affairs ..... Mirima Stein  
 National Security..... Laura Miller  
 Americanism ..... Kris Ann Alexander  
 Children & Youth..... Gabriele Barnett  
 Community Service ..... Sharon Wilson  
 Education ..... Dr. Cindy Swartz  
 Girls State..... Deedy Harrell  
 Junior Activities..... Kalyn Slagle  
 Legislative ..... Vacant (Cheryl Waybright)  
 Poppy ..... Cathy Hedges

## SUPPORT COMMITTEES

AEF ..... Vacant (Cheryl Waybright)  
 Awards & Recognition... Linda Brock  
 Convention..... 9th District  
 C&Bs..... Vacant (Cheryl Waybright)  
 Credentials ..... Phyllis Jones &  
 Sabrina Brown Putney, Co-Chairs  
 Finance..... Susan Hall, Chair  
 Ruth Ann Shelby & Sarah Zingarelli  
 Human Resources ..... Sheila Tinsley, Chair  
 Gabriele Barnett & Pam Eckler  
 Leadership/Yearbook .... Gail Ramey  
 Membership..... Pam Eckler  
 Past President Parley & Member of the Year  
 Cheryl Jackson-Sinkler  
 Poppy Anchor..... 11th District  
 Launching..... Unit 184 (1st District)  
 Orders ..... Patty Hawkins  
 Public Relations..... Courtney Waybright  
 Resolutions ..... Dr. Joann Meadows  
 Risk & Compliance ..... Kathy Merritt, Chair  
 Anita Owens & Lisa Marie Papp  
 Scrapbook ..... Melinda Gaskins  
 Unit Development & Revitalization  
 Gail Ramey & Pam Eckler, Jennie Chandler



Cheryl Waybright  
 President 2024-2025

#AMPUPMISSION

**WHEW! Mid-February and things are heating up! Our Unit engagement in Mission is on FIRE!** There are less than three months left in the reporting year, and we will all be busy with gathering information and reporting on top of all we do to **AMP UP MISSION.**



February is Americanism and Black History Month; scholarship applications are due March 1; March is Women’s History Month and Americanism essays are due at the end of March. AND the Americanism “It’s a Grand Old Flag” challenge is due 3/20. **THEN HERE comes APRIL and the Month of the Military Child.** And Girls State registration and payment is due date 4/20. Did anyone say Poppy? May is coming on fast!

**IT IS A LOT!** Please know I am extremely thankful for all the hours our members are doing in creative activities to serve our mission and engage in membership/organization support. Here’s a shout out to Nancy Kunz, Marilyn Fowler, Phillis Jones, and Carla Thomas for submitting District President reports. It is extremely helpful for District Presidents and Department Chairs to do these each quarter – it drastically reduces the time spend on year-end reporting. The Department Historian and I love receiving these and we can’t wait for Convention and the final report to be included in the Department History and the 24-25 Book of Reports. *Don’t be listed as “repor not received.”*

As I visit districts and units I am simply blown away by the kindness and exuberance demonstrated by our members as they bubble up with pride about their service to our mission. It is simply amazing all the things being done locally. In secret! It’s time to toot those horns and share share share in the newsletter, in our Facebook group, in the NEWS (share that too)! Check out the story about Darian Unit 137 and our members who participate in Honor Guard.

I look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the March conference – please plan to attend if you can – go with your ALA sisters and make a weekend of it! Please reach out with any question – no matter position, level, or location – I am here to serve **you.** Ask away!

Cheryl Waybright  
 404-625-6708 ★ [Cheryl@ALAGeorgia.com](mailto:Cheryl@ALAGeorgia.com)





## KEY DATES

FIRST OF EVERY MONTH  
IS **BE THE ONE** DAY!

EVERY FRIDAY IS **RED** Shirt Friday

Remembering **E**veryone **D**eported-Wear Red!

### February 2025

**Americanism Month & Black History Month**

**Go Red for Women: American Heart Month**

- 13 ..... Marine Corps Women's Reserve (1943)
- 14 ..... Valentine's Day
- 15 ..... Remember the Maine Day (USS Maine)
- 17 ..... President's Day
- 19 ..... Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima
- 19 ..... Coast Guard Reserve Birthday
- 23 ..... Mt. Suribachi U.S. Flag Raising (1945)
- 27 ..... Persian Gulf Cease-Fire Day (1991)
- 28-30.. Ramadan

### March 2025

**Women's History Month**

- 1 ..... Education Scholarship Applications Due
- 1-7 ..... National Invest in Veterans Week
- 3 ..... Navy Reserve Birthday (1915)
- 3 ..... Star Spangled Banner Day
- 4 ..... Mardi Gras
- 4 ..... Hug a G.I. Day
- 5 ..... Ash Wednesday
- 5 ..... Seabees Birthday (1942)
- 8 ..... International Women's Day
- 9 ..... Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 13 ..... K-9 Veterans Day
- 15 ..... American Legion Birthday (1919)
- 17 ..... St. Patrick's Day
- 21 ..... Rosie the Riveter Day
- 25 ..... Medal of Honor Day
- 25 ..... Americanism Essays due to Department
- 29 ..... Vietnam War Veterans Day

### April 2025

**Month of the Military Child: 4/15 is Purple Up Day!**

**Military Saves Month**

- 1 ..... April Fool's Day
- 5 ..... Gold Star Spouses Day
- 9 ..... National Former POW Recognition Day
- 13 ..... Palm Sunday
- 14 ..... Air Force Reserve Birthday (1916/1948)  
National Pan American Day
- 15 ..... Purple Up Day (2011)
- 18 ..... Good Friday
- 20 ..... Easter Sunday  
Volunteer Recognition Day
- 22 ..... Earth Day
- 23 ..... U.S. Army Reserve Birthday (1908)
- 26 ..... American Legion Family Day
- 30 ..... National Military Brats Day

### May 2025

**MAY 1 – Reports & Books & Posters are Due!**

## UNIT TO DO LIST

- Membership Dues:** All Department, District and Unit Officers should have paid their 2025 membership dues by now.
- Obligations:** Please don't wait, send them now. Deadline is April 1, 2025.
- Plans** for Americanism Month (February)
- Plans** for Children & Youth Activities (April)
- Reporting Plans – confirm who is doing what!**
- Advocate!** (see page15)
- Volunteer Hours:** It doesn't hurt to start collecting hours and information for impact and year end reports now going back to May 1. We are half way through the reporting year!
- Compliance Items:** Has your unit filed your 990 form? Check your fiscal year and stay (or get into) Compliance.
- Did your unit send a copy of your 990 form to the State of GA revenue division? Didn't know that? Hmmm...**
- Have you updated your filing with the Georgia Secretary of State to include your new officers?
- Renewal for the Georgia Secretary of State is coming up – don't forget to get it done.

It is not 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.

If you have any questions about any of the items listed above, reach out to our Department Secretary Patty Hawkins 678-289-8446 ★ [secamlegaux@bellsouth.net](mailto:secamlegaux@bellsouth.net)

## NATIONAL POPPY DAY IS MAY 23, 2025



THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY  
NATIONAL POPPY DAY\*

**Poppy Day Planning**  
Start Now for a Successful Poppy Day

Supplies are available at <https://emblem.legion.org/>  
Check out the spread on page 11 of the February 2025 edition of the Auxiliary Magazine.

## STAY CONNECTED

### DEPARTMENT WEBSITE:

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

- Need a form?  
<https://www.aladdeptga.com/forms-1>
- Need to find a department leader?  
[https://www.aladdeptga.com/about\\_us](https://www.aladdeptga.com/about_us)
- Or a department committee chair?  
<https://www.aladdeptga.com/committee-chairpersons>
- ...or Department Governing Documents?  
<https://www.aladdeptga.com/governing-documents>

### GEORGIA GIRLS STATE

[www.georgiagirlsstate.org/](http://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](mailto:secamlegaux@bellsouth.net)

Membership Clerk: [amlegaux@bellsouth.net](mailto:amlegaux@bellsouth.net)

President: [Cheryl@ALAGeorgia.com](mailto:Cheryl@ALAGeorgia.com)

Leadership: [Leadership@ALAGeorgia.com](mailto:Leadership@ALAGeorgia.com)

Membership: [Membership@ALAGeorgia.com](mailto:Membership@ALAGeorgia.com)

Historian: [Historian@ALAGeorgia.com](mailto:Historian@ALAGeorgia.com)

Chaplain: [Chaplain@ALAGeorgia.com](mailto:Chaplain@ALAGeorgia.com)

PR: [PublicRelations@ALAGeorgia.com](mailto:PublicRelations@ALAGeorgia.com)

Newsletter: [Department@ALAGeorgia.com](mailto: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>

## AMERICANISM

### February is Americanism Month!

Need ideas for Americanism Month? Check out the Program Engagement page at <https://member.legion-aux.org/Member/Committees/Americanism/Get-Involved-Americanism>

Don't forget, the ALA supports The American Legion with Oratorical contests – they are underway now!

Americanism Essays are due to Kris Ann Alexander by March 25, 2025. Send to [krisann@windstream.net](mailto:krisann@windstream.net). See this link for details: <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/americanism> Also, there is a blog post coming soon from the National Chair of Americanism. It will be at this [link](#).

March 20! National Americanism Chair Christine Trahan introduced a new challenge. "You're a Grand Old Flag" – let's see how many units from GA will participate! When units submit entries to national, forward a copy to [Department@ALAGeorgia.com](mailto:Department@ALAGeorgia.com) (including video) by March 18 to be recognized as participating. The National challenge entries are due to National on the Americanism Facebook Group by 3/20. Results will be announced 3/30.

The latest Americanism national newsletter, the timeline for Essays and the challenge are all posted in the Department's private Facebook Group. Not a member, click here and then click to join and answer the questions.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/alaga>

Has your unit actively participated in **Star Spangled Kids**? This is the ALA initiative to educate our youth about United States history, Americanism, and the U.S. Constitution. ALA Units sponsor Star Spangled Kids activities in conjunction with local schools and youth groups. Read more here:

<https://www.legion-aux.org/star-spangled-kids>



**ABOUT:** *Georgia On My Mind* is a monthly publication presented by the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Georgia on or about the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Did you find a mistake in the newsletter? Or do you want to submit information for next month (due on the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month)?

If yes, send your request and information to [Department@alageorgia.com](mailto:Department@alageorgia.com) or to [PublicRelations@ALAGeorgia.com](mailto:PublicRelations@ALAGeorgia.com).

**DISCLAIMER:** Every attempt has been made to ensure accuracy of information and links shared in this edition. Many individuals contribute to this newsletter and sometimes there may be an OOPS! Kindly send an email to one of the addresses above and let our team know of any mistake you find. If more than two months have passed since the issue date of this edition, no guarantee is provided that the links in this edition are accurate. All efforts were made at the time of publication to ensure accurate links.

## LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

March 8 ..... Unit 172, Warner Robins  
 Register at <https://forms.gle/qEcY61iGDpQaqHqU9>  
 March 15 ..... Unit 233, Loganville  
 March 29 ..... Unit 135 Savannah  
 April 12 ..... Unit 30, Albany

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

*All the Leadership Workshop topics were woven into the agenda of the Fall Conference and may be included in the Spring Conference. Do not miss the change to network and learn!*

## ALA ACADEMY



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

Useful information is available at the **NATIONAL ALA ACADEMY**. Have questions? Review one of the sessions on the subject you are interested in.

### Timely sessions include:

- Navigating ALA National Scholarships
- Celebrating the Month of the Military Child
- Youth Hero and Good Deed Awards
- Celebrating Women of Service
- **ALA Leadership Series: So, You're a Department Chair. Now What?**
- Tax-Exempt Status: Revocation and Reinstatement
- ALA Compliance Matters
- National Poppy Day

## First Vice President – LEADERSHIP

Gail Ramey

Hello Everyone,

We had a successful Leadership Workshop at Smyrna Unit 160, on February 8. The attendance was great with a lot of participation from all who attended. Our next workshop will be in Warner Robbins on March 8. The registration link is to the left.



Also to the left is the list of the workshops that are coming up. Please remember, every workshop is open to anyone who wants to attend no matter where you live and even if you are not interested in becoming a leader. We offer crucial information at these workshops that will benefit every member.

**Registration begins at 9:30 am with a 10:00 am start time.**

We are doing very well with membership but continue to encourage members who have not renewed to do so, recruit

new members and reach out to members who you have not heard from in a while just to be sure they are ok. It's also time to contact counselors at your local high school to recruit girls for Girls State. The sooner this happens the better chance you will get the girls before their summer schedule is already full.

Don't forget about the free ALA Academy training – see information above left. Please remember March 8 is Celebrating Women of Service Day. You can write something up about a woman in the Auxiliary or a Service woman who has mentored you and send it in to National. More information is in the ALA Academy Member Portal.

Please 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](mailto:leadership@ALAGeorgia.com)



# HISTORIAN

Debbie Hoopingarner

Tick, tick, tick! Time is passing so very quickly.

I recently received a packet of information from District 9 President Nancy Kuntz. Thank you, Nancy! **What have the rest of you been doing?**

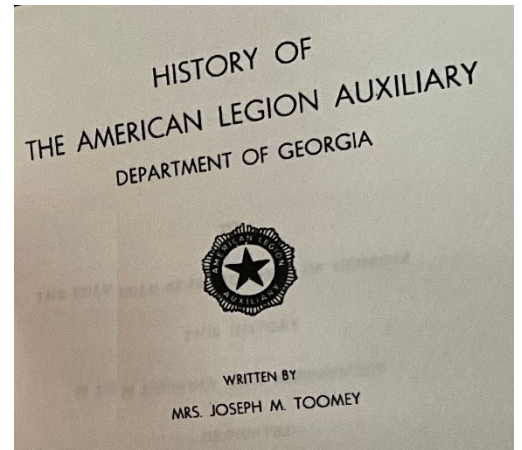
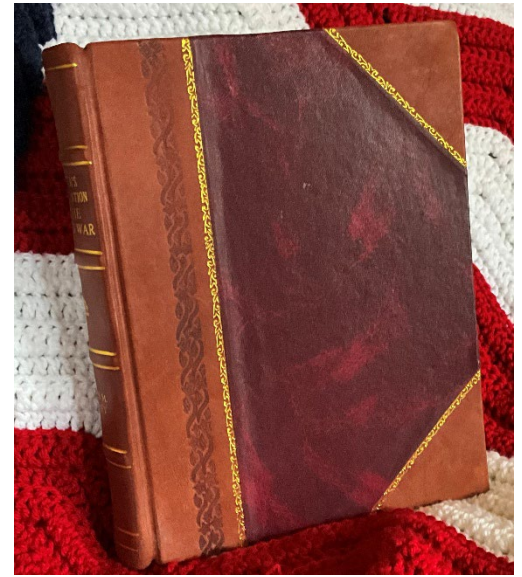
## What was the Department of Georgia doing 100 years ago?

Mrs. Boyce Ficklen, Jr. was Department President 1924-1925. At that time, it was common practice to use the husband's name. Her name was Lucy. A monthly bulletin was issued by Department Headquarters and was sent to all other Departments.

At the Christmas holidays the American Legion Auxiliary took over providing Christmas gifts for disabled veterans from various other women's organizations. In addition, a Christmas Cigarette Fund was raised by the Posts. The auxiliary purchased and distributed the cigarettes.

In early spring 1925, The American Legion launched a drive to raise \$5,000,000 for the National Child Welfare Endowment Fund. President Ficklen served as Vice-Chairman on the fund-raising committee. At that time TAL and ALA worked together on the project. Georgia's quota was \$75,000. Only \$52,000 was raised. The Auxiliary attributed this to depressed financial conditions at the time and the fact that many Georgians were moving to Florida. The Legion attributed it to a lot of flooding.

Many of the committees that we have today were very active that year. The Legislative Committee was busy at the State Service Bureau. The Historian was responsible for the Georgia World War Record Blanks. These Blanks were so well received that the Department received a silver loving cup. This cup was passed on to the National President, to be awarded to the Department doing the most outstanding historical work. The Department Publicity Director began a newsletter "Who's Who in the Georgia Department." The Department Americanism Committee was also busy with the Memorial Library and Women's Division of the Wilkes-Legion Fair.



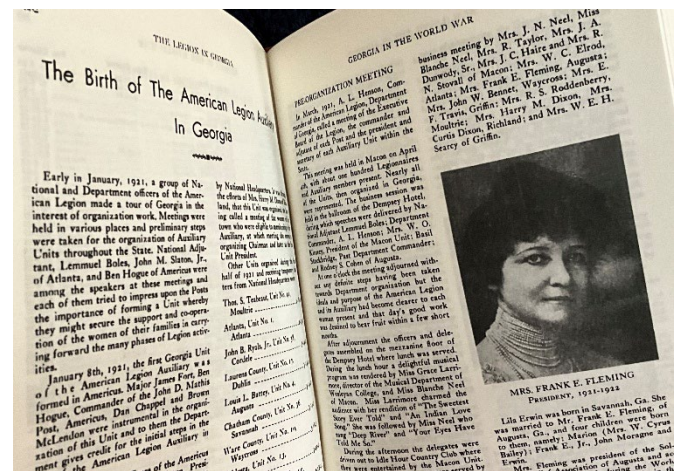
**Has everyone started their unit History Books?** The due date is sooner than you think. Please see the rules contained in the Department's [Awards and Recognition Rules Guide](#)

And submit your Unit History Report – see the form: [Historian \(+Cavalcade of Memories\) 24-25](#)

If you have any questions, please reach out to me. You can contact me any time.

Debbie Hoopingarner

317-753-3394 [Historian@alageorgia.com](mailto:Historian@alageorgia.com)



## CHALLENGES FOR OUR LATEST GENERATION

Embracing the latest generation requires our units to step up and promote our youth programs. **Here are the 2024-2025 challenges from our National organization.** Stretch your goal and do more than one!

- Submit one Youth Hero Award.
- Submit one Youth Good Deed Award.

**Resources:** <https://www.legion-aux.org/Youth-Hero-Good-Deed-Awards>

**Training** on ALA Academy about the awards: <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/online-training>

- Recruit at least one participant to the GA **Oratorical** competition at your unit.
- Due 3/1/25:** Recruit at least one applicant for an **Education Scholarships!**
- Recruit at least one **Americanism Essay** participant. Due 3/25/25.
- Recruit at least one **Poppy Poster** contestant. Due 5/1/25
- Recruit girls to attend **Georgia Girls State** in June 2025. Funds due 4/20/25.
- Recruit one or more Junior members to attend an upcoming Department Conference or Convention.
- Send at least one Junior member to Junior Summer Camp.

**We would love to see the summary by each unit on the annual report to the Department President and Historian so the information can be rolled up in the annual Department report to National.**

## YOUTH PROGRAMMING...

**February is Americanism Month!** See [American Legion youth programs](#) and the ALA Engagement Plan or the Americanism Challenge Cards. . <https://member.legion-aux.org/Member/Committees/Americanism/Get-Involved-Americanism>

**Oratorical Contest:** See <https://www.legion.org/get-involved/youth-programs/oratorical-contest>. The Georgia competition is **March 30, 2025** in Forsyth. <http://departmentofgeorgiaoratorical.weebly.com/>.

**Scholarships:** Applications for the American Legion Auxiliary National Scholarships are due on or before **5pm on March 1, 2025.** Submit online at <https://www.legion-aux.org/scholarships> More information is at <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/education/scholarship-resources>. There are two Georgia Scholarships see the policy for scholarships at <https://www.aladepgta.com/governing-documents>. Questions? Reach out to Education Chair Cindy Schwartz at [cindy.rochelle18@gmail.com](mailto:cindy.rochelle18@gmail.com) Check out the National ALA Training Academy for the new course about National scholarships <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/online-training>

**Americanism Essay Contest:** The 2024-2025 topic is "What Does America the Beautiful Mean to Me?" Regarding veterans and our military. Visit <https://member.legion-aux.org/Member/Committees/Americanism/Get-Involved-Americanism> or <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/americanism> for more information. **Essay entries are due to the Department Americanism Chair no later than March 25, 2025.** Send to **Krisann Alexander** at either 1391 Sims Kidd Rd., Comer, GA 30629, or email: [Krisann@windstream.net](mailto:Krisann@windstream.net)

**Georgia Girls State!** Online portal opens March 1. Details at <https://www.georgiagirlsstate.org/>. **DUE DATE: APRIL 20, 2025 for Units to send the fee of \$350.00 per girl** payable to Georgia Girls State to ALA GA HQ at 3035 Mt. Zion Road, Stockbridge, GA 30281. Contact Director Deedy Harrell at [georgiagirlsstate@gmail.com](mailto:georgiagirlsstate@gmail.com).

**Juniors....** There is rumor there will be activities for juniors at the Spring Conference or June Convention. Check in with the Department of Georgia Juniors Member Activities Chair, Kayln Slagle at [kalynslagle@yahoo.com](mailto:kalynslagle@yahoo.com). **Department of Georgia Juniors Camp** hosted by the Georgia Detachment of the Sons of the American Legion is May 31 – June 5, 2025. Check in with Cliff Hall at [cliff.hall@salgeorgia.org](mailto:cliff.hall@salgeorgia.org) for more information and the Georgia ALA website.

**The Poppy Poster Contest:** Contest rules are available at: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Poppy-Poster-Contest> **Poster entries are due to the Department Poppy Chair no later than May 1, 2025.** Each Unit should submit only the finalists **and cover sheets** (required by National) in each category for judging to the Department. Submit to Cathy Hedges at 401 Rivermist Ct. Bethlehem, GA. 30620 (email [cathy4hedges@gmail.com](mailto:cathy4hedges@gmail.com))

**THE MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD IS APRIL 2025.** Wear purple April 15 in honor of Purple Up! Day for Military Kids. To plan the month of activities at local schools and with local military families, check out resources on the ALA Engagement page at <https://member.legion-aux.org/Member/Committees/Children-and-Youth/Get-Involved-Children-Youth> and at <https://militarychild.org/resource/momc-toolkit/month-of-the-military-child-resources/#top-content> for great ideas. Reach out to Department Children & Youth Chair Gabriele Barnett at [barnettgabriele@hotmail.com](mailto:barnettgabriele@hotmail.com) for more information.



## ALAF SUPPORTED PROJECT - DARIAN UNIT 137

In May 2023, the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation (ALAF) awarded Darian, Georgia ALA Unit 137, a grant of \$8,180 for the **"Upward Reflection Project"** at the Golden Isles Veterans Village Initiative (GIVVI) in Brunswick, Georgia. The intended completion date was May 27, 2024. ALA Unit 137 raised the 20% matching funds in early 2024.

Golden Isles Veterans Village Initiative is a community of 30 (thirty) tiny-homes and a community center located at 1403 G Street (corner of G Street and MLK Jr. Blvd.), Brunswick, GA. <https://www.goldenislesveteransvillage.org/>

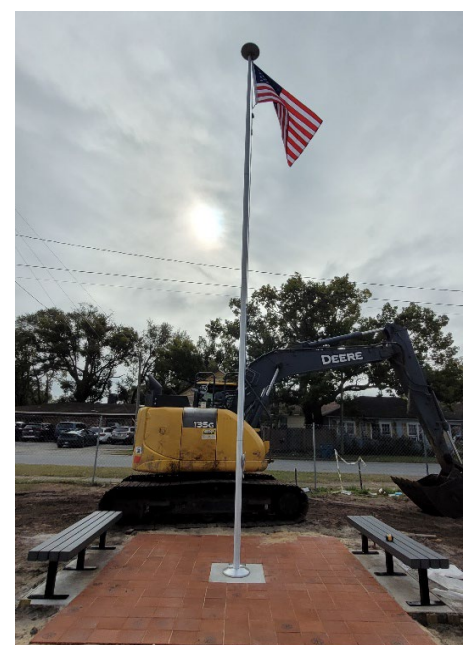
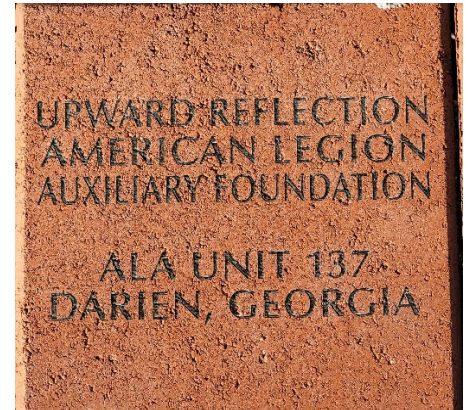
Late in 2023 autumn rains created flooding delays, and it was discovered the original topographic survey was incorrect. A new survey and design had to be done to include a storm water remediation plan working around placement of existing structures and utility services. While the exterior site plan was redesigned, exterior and interior construction continued in the Village. Ultimately the unit had to apply for an extension with the ALAF because the targeted completion of May 27, 2024 would not be met. With the assistance of ALAF staff, the Unit received an extension on March 11, 2024, thus making the project period 6/1/2023 – 12/31/2024.

The new survey was completed April 2024 and EMC presented a proposed Paving, Grading and Drainage Plan on May 31, 2024. After review and modifications, a final plan was produced in August 2024 and a contractor was hired and started work October 1, 2024. Work needed to be complete in the area before breaking ground for "Upward Reflection" could take place; "Upward Reflection" was identified in the Grant extension request and appeared on EMC's August plan. Ground was broken on October 17 while the contractor continued remediation site work on the property. The rough grade was completed on November 21 and the final grading and subsurface was completed on December 9. The pavers were placed on December 10 and concrete bench pads and side paver locks were poured on December 11. The concrete flag pole footer was poured on December 16, and the benches were constructed on December 18.

**Monday, December 23, 2024 was an exciting day!** All elements of "Upward Reflection" came together. The benches were installed and the flag pole and solar light were assembled and the flag pole erected. The ALAF plaque was installed and a Flag Raising ceremony was held. Veterans in attendance saluted the flag and all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The first component of the Village was complete! Unexpended funds were returned to ALAF.

**"Upward Reflection" is a first for the Village, as quoted: "It is the raising of our Nation's flag, at a special site, in a dignified manner, to serve the homeless veterans in the near future."** Construction is underway for the remainder of the village and should be completed soon. The most important part of the Village will be the new residents of the village, veterans, who will receive services and education leading to self-sufficient return to society. The Grand Opening and Dedication Ceremony of the entire Village was scheduled for February 8 but had to be rescheduled and will be announced soon.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 137 thanks and expresses its sincere gratitude to the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation for the grant that allowed the success of this project. "Upward Reflection" is the focal point at the Village for our Nation's flag which was flown over the Capitol. It stands out in Americanism, one of the four pillars of the American Legion, and allows for the remembrance that the American Legion Auxiliary is there to honor those who serve. For God and Country!



## TIPS TO THRIVE IN 2025

**SERVICE NOT SELF. THAT'S OUR MOTTO.** To serve our mission, each of us must find a place in our units to thrive personally in this vast volunteer organization. When our members focus on aligning their passion and strengths with the many available roles, that is where the IGNITION happens. The energy multiplies and new friendships or “sisters in service” are born and units grow stronger together, in our communities across the state.

**Another place for ignition is when we actively seek out training.** The ALA Academy is a great place to learn best practices on how to deliver on our mission outreach programs and \*sigh\* on the nitty gritty of keeping a unit, district or department, each of which is a small corporation compliant and in good standing with the IRS, state, and the ALA Department of GA. Interestingly some of our members prefer the latter in lieu of being in the middle of big volunteer events. Every unit needs the ‘paper people’ to keep it running. Thriving is also all about actively demonstrating initiative. Ask “how can I help” then show up, do, then thank everyone that came to help. Thriving means to always be willing to learn while also doing. Hey, next time you might just be the team leader!

**The ALA needs every member to help build the bridge from where we are to where we want to go.** We want to grow and be ready to engage our veterans and their families the best we can. We do that when we are collaborative, inclusive, and willing to change ourselves as we address the changing needs of those we serve.

**CALL TO ACTION:** Log into the ALA Member Portal – read about one of the mission programs, go to the ALA Academy and take the online course about that program. Then SHOW UP and engage in your unit and offer to help in that area you just learned about. If you don't who will?

### NEW UNITS

Welcome to Georgia's newest unit, LaFayette Unit 339 organized by Unit President Kristi Fowler Jenny Chandler is mentoring the new unit alongside 7<sup>th</sup> District President Laura Oliver. The unit is chartered with eleven new members and has more applications in process. Yippee! Despite the freezing weather and malfunctioning heater, it was all warm smiles and goodwill on January 20, 2025, for the organization all around. Not pictured are all the Legionnaires who also attended the ceremony.

Pictured top right are most chartering members. Pictured right from the left are Department President Cheryl Waybright, 7<sup>th</sup> District President Laura Oliver, LaFayette Unit 229 President Kristi Fowler, and Jenny Chandler, the 7<sup>th</sup> District Historian and President of Chickamauga Unit 217.

For more information on starting a new unit in the Department of Georgia, check out the Guide – it has all the check lists and steps that are necessary to get a great start. There are two more units working through their steps...STAY TUNED!

Guide to Starting (or restarting) a new Unit in Georgia can be found [here](https://www.aladepgtga.com/forms-1) or on this page: <https://www.aladepgtga.com/forms-1>





# 100% MEMBERSHIP NATIONAL UNIT AWARDS!



Congratulations to the Georgia units who attained 100% on or before January 31, 2025. Each unit will receive a 100% Unit Flag Ribbon. These will be mailed to the Department for distribution – hopefully at the March conference.

UNIT	District	Unit
116	1	Sylvania (George Alexander Mincey)
321	1	Midway (East Liberty County, Inc.)
30	2	Albany (Walter H Burt)
122	2	Cairo (Grady County, Inc.)
502	2	Bainbridge (Burns-Shivers)
75	3	Lagrange (Baxter L. Schaub, Inc.)
1	5	Atlanta
145	5	Douglasville (Frank P. Dorris)
76	6	Fort Valley (Frederick Withoft)
172	6	Warner Robins (Arthur Leonard Johnson, Jr.)
52	7	Rome (Adams-Coker)
106	7	Trenton (Dade County)
506	7	Rome (Grady Mabry)
130	8	Folkston
16	9	Cleveland (Roy Head)
84	9	Cornelia (Habersham County, Inc.)
121	9	Blairsville (Ira Weaver)
247	9	Dawsonville
56	10	Jefferson (Albert Gordon)
110	10	Monticello (Jasper County)
21	12	Tifton (Tift County)

Every one of us is a part of the BIG picture in 'Membership', the foundation and building blocks of this fantastic organization.

'Leading the Way', is not solely the responsibility of the Membership Chairs or Department Presidents or our staff team. Success depends on everyone taking 'part' and 'participating' in recruiting, renewing, and rejoining members and ENGAGING them in our incredible mission!

## ABOUT MEMBERSHIP: ENGAGEMENT

In December we covered **ELIGIBILITY** and in January we addressed **EXPIRATION**. This month, it's all about member **ENGAGEMENT**. Membership in the ALA can be fulfilling and can increase confidence in public speaking, organization, and mentoring others all while making a difference in the lives of our veterans, active duty, and their families. **Since you joined, have you made new friends? Have you felt proud of what your unit team does to live the motto "SERVICE NOT SELF"?** Hopefully, the answer to both those questions is a resounding YES!

**Creating a unit environment that engages all members and their individual desire to volunteer where they "fit" best is something all our units are chasing.** The first step is to be welcoming and engage unit members and prospects in conversation and in activities of service they enjoy. Make an effort to invite all members to attend the Unit Meetings and help them understand the protocols and customs. **And wear name tags!!!!** Introduce them to Flag & Emblem and the ALA Membership Portal where they can read more about mission activities, they have a passion for.

**Recruit new leaders!** Welcome all our members to attend Unit Executive Committee Meetings – with no voice no vote – but certainly learning and engagement will occur!



**Welcoming members to leadership meetings is an open action to cultivate future leaders.** There are infrequent situations a Unit Executive Committee may need to go into executive sessions such as rare litigation, disciplinary actions, or medical issues of a leader impacting performance. Units should do so infrequently; as holding frequent executive sessions may give the impression of undue secrecy. Generally, executive sessions are used for discussion and not decision making. Remember, a quorum must be present, and a member of the Unit Executive Committee must make a motion that needs a second with the ability to debate and the motion should state the reasons for executive session. When in doubt, stay open and remember to engage, not exclude!

**HAVE FUN!** Don't forget to plan time to just "BE" with your members. Our time is precious and even so, enjoying each other in a social setting or fun activities drives much higher engagement.



## CELEBRATING WOMEN OF SERVICE

On March 8, International Women's Day, the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation will Celebrate Women of Service. Mark your calendar and donate to the ALA Foundation in honor of a woman who inspires you. Let's use this day to commemorate our incredible community of volunteers and veterans to sustain the ALA's mission of service. Every gift received on March 8 will benefit the ALA Foundation's Mission Endowment Fund. The Mission Endowment Fund financially supports the programs of the ALA, including ALA Girls Nation, Spirit of Youth scholarships, and events like the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival!



## AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND NEWS TO PAY ATTENTION TO:

**HOT OFF THE PRESS:** *“ALA National Headquarters is implementing a three-month deadline instead of six months for Auxiliary Emergency Fund disaster applications effective **March 1, 2025**. This approach balances the need for urgency with accessibility, ensuring more efficient resource allocation and quicker recovery for ALA members.”*

*Any ALA member who applies for assistance for a disaster that occurs after March 1, 2025, will be subject to this change. If ALA members apply for assistance for a disaster that occurred prior to March 1 (example. Hurricane Helene, Hurricane Milton, CA wildfires) they will still be granted the existing six-month deadline.*

*A three-month deadline for disaster applications promotes timely aid distribution and efficient resource management. While shorter deadlines may pose challenges for certain populations, these can be addressed through targeted outreach, flexibility for exceptional cases, and enhanced support systems. By making this change, the ALA can better serve affected communities and expedite the transition from immediate response to long-term recovery. ”*

**Did your unit donate to the AEF in 2024-2025? It is not too late!** You can donate to the AEF by clicking [here](#) or by sending a unit donation with your mandatory obligations and voluntary contributions.

**HISTORY Buff Stuff:** Established in 1969, the AEF was created with a bequest from the estate of Auxiliary member Helen Colby Small of Burlington, Wisconsin. Five decades later, the AEF is still helping fellow Auxiliary members get back on their feet. To carry on the AEF for members in need of assistance, we need your generous support. You can donate to the AEF by clicking [here](#).

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) is a national grant assistance program that provides financial assistance to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary who have endured a significant financial setback as the result of an act of nature or other personal crisis.

### Way to raise AEF program awareness to ALA members:

Meetings, newsletters, social media, individual discussion with a member experiencing a personal crisis, after a local disaster strikes, or encourage members to visit the ALA website or join the AEF Facebook group.

### Resources:

- [www.ALAforVeterans.org/AEF](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org/AEF)
- [www.Facebook.com/groups/AuxEmergencyFund](https://www.Facebook.com/groups/AuxEmergencyFund)
- [www.ALAforVeterans.org/donate](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org/donate)

# RESOLUTIONS

By Past Department President, Dr. Joann Meadows



## What is a Resolution?

In Robert's Rules of Order, a RESOLUTION is a special type of MOTION. Resolutions present more complex questions or are used when formality is necessary or desired. It is a written statement. Generally, a motion does not include reasons for adopting the motion – the person making the motion is generally allowed to speak first when the debate opens and has a moment to share the rationale.

Resolutions on the other hand are generally written, submitted in advance and may but do not have to include a preamble which would include the reasons or background for desired outcome. Preamble sentences begin with "Whereas" and the last sentence is the "Resolving Clause" or motion.

The resolving clause is voted on first and may be amended and those amendments approved. If that is the case, then consideration of the adopted amended motion must look at if the preamble or "whereas" clauses must also change.

## What are the ALA Department of Georgia Rules on Resolutions?

See the Constitution, ARTICLE VII - RESOLUTIONS

- Section 1. All resolutions presented to the Department Convention for action must be submitted to the Resolutions Committee three weeks prior to the Convention.
- Section 2. Four (4) copies of all resolutions shall be required, and these must bear the signature of at least three (3) members of the Auxiliary who are in good standing in their Units. Resolutions from Committees may be submitted electronically and signed electronically by the Committee Chairperson.
- Section 3. Resolutions concerning business deemed by the President, First Vice President, and Resolutions Committee Chairperson as being of an emergency nature may be presented to the Department Convention for action without prior notice. (The Department President, First Vice President and the Resolutions Committee Chairperson shall determine, by vote, whether an emergency exists as regards an uncirculated Resolution.)
- Section 4. All resolutions presented to the Department Convention must be read twice, with at least twelve (12) hours elapsing between readings.
- Section 5. All resolutions presented to the Department Convention relative to the expenditure of money shall be previously submitted to the finance Committee of the Department for review and opinion purposes. (This will not preclude the Resolution from being presented to the Department Convention).

**Resolutions must be in the hands of the Resolutions Chair NO later than June 5, 2025 (Not just postmarked June 5, 2025).** Mail three copies to: Joann Meadows, Resolutions Chair, 105 Woodridge Dr. NW, Woodridge Estates, Calhoun, GA 30701-9424, and mail one copy to: American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Georgia, 3035 Mt. Zion Road, Stockbridge, GA 30281 to arrive NO later than June 5, 2025.

## ALA CHALLENGE DECK

Discover ways to get involved in your community and make a real difference in the lives of local veterans **BY USING THE ALA CHALLENGE DECK.**

To reinvigorate units and boost community participation, National President Trish Ward and the 2024-2025 national chairs developed the ALA Challenge Deck and includes descriptions and links to additional resources for all the ALA's programs, like Americanism and Children & Youth. [Learn more about the ALA Challenge Deck here and get yours today!](#) When you (or your unit) donate \$35 or more to the **Veteran Projects Fund**, you will receive the 46-card deck. Learn more about the ALA Challenge Deck at <https://www.legion-aux.org/ALA-Challenge-Deck>. **Donate online at** <https://donate.legion-aux.org/CSiDonate/Give.aspx/S9FGOOG7#c> or text CARD to 1-844-940-3450, or mail a check to ALA National Headquarters, 3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268.

Please indicate in the memo line of the check that the gift is for the cards. If you have any questions, please contact Development Director Carley Schutz at [cschutz@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:cschutz@ALAforVeterans.org).



# HONOR GUARD

Georgia ALA Unit 42 Cartersville member Courtney McManus was interviewed and featured in the “Heart of the Mission: Meet Our Members” segment in the February edition of the Auxiliary Magazine on page 10. Courtney is the first female member of Post 42’s Honor Guard.

From the article, “Honor Guards are deeply important when it comes to honoring the men and women who served this country.”

At Post 56 in Jefferson, five of the nine members of its Honor Guard are members of ALA Unit 56. This Honor Guard was called into action when the National Commander visited District 10 January 17. The Honor Guard performed a full program, and the National Commander laid a wreath at the gravesite of “the Poppy Lady” Moina Michael at the historic Monroe Cemetery.

Read more about honor guards here: <https://www.legion-aux.org/blog/auxiliary-honor-guards-and-color-guards-what-they>

**HEART OF THE MISSION: MEET OUR MEMBERS**

*“For me, the Honor Guard is an incredible way to say ‘Thank you’ — ‘Thank you for all you did for our country.’”*

**COURTNEY McMANUS**

American Legion Family members nationwide honor the service and sacrifices of veterans by serving in Honor Guards. Those who volunteer to be part of an Honor Guard are fulfilling an important role. Imagine if you went to a military funeral and there wasn't a rifle salute, you didn't hear Taps, and there was no one to fold the flag and present it to the family. Imagine being at a parade and no one is marching with the American flag. You may not think of them every day, but Honor Guards are deeply important when it comes to honoring the men and women who served this country.

One of those volunteers is Georgia ALA Unit 42 member Courtney McManus: the first female member of Post 42's Honor Guard in spring 2024.

McManus joined the ALA more than nine years ago to honor the service of her grandfather, U.S. Air Force veteran Robert Rydell, and other family members. Recently, she found extra free time and decided to use that time to give back to veterans in Georgia by joining the Honor Guard.

**What motivated you to join the Honor Guard?**

The motivation to join was simple. Our Honor Guard had several Legionnaires who had



to step down for health reasons. It was sometimes difficult for them to have enough volunteers to shoot, fold, and call the bugle. The Soas were asked to pitch in, and my husband joined. So, I then asked the director, Jack Pierce, if I might be able to join as well. After a training session, I was in. My marching band and hunter safety courses paid off.

**What does being a member of the Honor Guard mean to you?**

For me, the Honor Guard is an incredible way to say “Thank you” — “Thank you for all you did for our country.” I also feel it gives families incredible closure for their loved one. It is a very powerful and emotional ceremony our veterans deserve.

**What is your favorite thing about being part of the Honor Guard?**

Our team! I have become very close with them. They accepted my skills and let me help, and for that, I am honored.

**Any advice for other ALA members interested in joining an Honor Guard?**

Reach out to your group and ask if they need help. You won't know until you try. My family has always encouraged me to never be afraid to try new things. This endeavor is one I am so glad I sought out!




**HONORING VETERANS:** Georgia ALA Unit 42 member Courtney McManus is the first female member of Post 42's Honor Guard.



**Are you an ALA member who participates in your American Legion post's Honor Guard? Tell us about it! Email us at [ALAMagazine@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:ALAMagazine@ALAforVeterans.org).**



Thru rain or sleet or heat or snow,  
the American Legion Honor Guard will go.  
To perform their duties on command  
in honor of all those who defended this land.  
Their gesture of good deeds for the family  
bereaved  
will bring comfort and closure to what they  
have achieved.

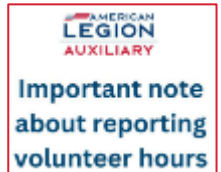
-- By: George Cox

<https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/your-words/poetry/honor-guard>



## IMPACT & COMMITTEE REPORTS

It starts with YOU – the MEMBERS! Thank you for REPORTING on your VALUABLE SERVICE and helping us TELL OTHERS about our INCREDIBLE IMPACT! **Department Committee Chairs need each unit to submit by May 1<sup>st</sup>** so they can prepare and submit the Department report to National by May 15<sup>th</sup> and enter units, individuals, and the department to National for awards. Help them by sharing YOUR awesomeness that occurs between May 1 2024 to April 30, 2025. Check with your District – usually the same reports are submitted to District Chairs the same time units submit reports to the Department Chairpersons. Copy the Department Historian and Department President on your reports to be included in the Department History Book and the annual report to National. Be included. Great resources for Committee Chairs can be found in the [Committee Chair Presentation](#) and [Committee Chair Resources](#). **ALL Committee Chairs are encouraged to review this material.**



### Reporting: Tips & Tricks Let's shift our thinking about reporting.

*If the "task" of reporting is viewed less as a chore but instead, embodied as a guiding light to success throughout the entire year, imagine what you, your unit, your district, and our department can do!*

Shifting from a mindset of resenting "having to report" to leveraging the report process as an initiative-taking measurement of "what do we need to do" at the beginning of our administrative year is key to keeping the momentum going of (or restarting) a quality program.

If each unit, district, and department committee chairperson begin the year with the end in mind – "WHAT ARE WE DOING OR WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO" – the report form is that LIST OF THINGS to be done in our quest to achieve the ALA vision and mission.

And then, reporting becomes less of a task and more of a "DID WE DO IT? And DID WE DO IT WELL? Recognizing and reporting, on the things that did not go well is just as important of capturing the WINS and ACHIEVEMENTS.

**Whv and How?** <https://www.legion-aux.org/Member/Impact-Report>

### IMPACT ALA!

Service on the monthly tracking form. Both a printable form and an automated spreadsheet are available online.

Typically in April, transfer the yearly totals to the "Member Year-End Impact Numbers Report." Give that report to your unit president, who will download a "Unit Year-End Impact Numbers Report" and will transfer the unit's total numbers to this form.

Your department may require you to submit your unit form to your district/county/council or directly to the department headquarters. Ultimately, the department takes the report totals and submits them electronically to National Headquarters by June 1. National Headquarters then provides a summary of hours served and dollars donated in service to our mission to national committee chairs, as well as to The American Legion for its annual Congressional report.

#### Reporting tips

To make the reporting process easier, it has been simplified and the form has been condensed to essential information. If you are unsure about your numbers, even giving an estimate is better than not reporting at all. Also, all service for all veterans/military — whether active duty, retired, or reserve — is now combined in one section. Each section has better defined examples of the service that should be reported. Taking the time to report your valuable service to veterans helps us show others about our incredible impact!

### EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ALA IMPACT REPORTS

Every hour and every dollar ALA members invest in our mission of helping veterans adds up. It not only gives each member a sense of pride in belonging to the organization, but it allows us to demonstrate our mission service and effectiveness to our donors and to the world.

#### Why do we have them?

Impact reports are a record of the time and money each member gives in service to veterans, military, and their families. Each small sum of numbers is added to the collective data called impact numbers, which proclaim our mission outreach and help make membership in the ALA even more meaningful.

#### How does the process work?

Members report numbers to the unit; units sometimes report to a

district/county/council or directly to the department, which then combines the numbers and reports them to the national organization. National Headquarters compiles, analyzes, and reports these numbers to The American Legion, which includes them in its annual report to Congress. With nearly 550,000 ALA members, that's a lot of data to compile!

#### When to record your impact numbers

Waiting until the end of the year to recall service hours and amounts donated and spent during the year is a challenge — try to start early! Each month, members should track their service for 1) veterans and all military, 2) military families, 3) children and youth including ALA Girls State, and 4) Community

## UNIT & DISTRICT MERIT RECOGNITION

[The Unit Merit Recognition](#) focuses on celebrating units that strive for and achieve membership, operational, and management excellence. A focus on the business of the unit not only drives volunteer engagement and allegiance, but it also drives delivery on our mission and cultivates respect in the community. A well run unit validates the legitimacy of the ALA for both members and non-members.



[The DISTRICT Merit Recognition](#) focuses on celebrating districts that strive for and achieve membership, operational, and management excellence. A focus on the business of the district not only drives volunteer engagement and allegiance, but it also drives delivery on our mission and cultivates respect in the community. A well run district validates the legitimacy of the ALA for both members and non-members

(\*Units or District on IRS suspension are not eligible – confirm with the department president if you are unsure.)

## NEW ALA FOUNDATION AWARDS

The ALA Foundation is thrilled to announce the launch of two new awards to honor ALA departments in 2025 – Veterans Champion Award and Donor Champion Award.

**Veterans Champion Award:** This award celebrates the outstanding department who has secured the most ALA Foundation grants to support veterans and military families in their state. This award includes Veteran Projects Fund grants and Veterans Creative Arts Festival grants awarded to ALA units, districts/counties, and departments. By securing vital funding, these champions demonstrate unwavering support for initiatives that provide critical services, opportunities, and resources to veterans and their families.

**Donor Champion Award:** This honor is designed to recognize the incredible generosity and commitment of our ALA community. This award includes donations from units and individuals as well as the department itself that makes the largest per capita donation to the Foundation from June 1 – May 31. This award celebrates the individual, unit, and department whose contributions, relative to their size, have made an outstanding impact. It highlights not just the scale of giving, but the spirit of collective generosity and the power of unity in supporting a shared cause.

Winners will be announced at the ALA National Convention in August. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Foundation President, Cathie MacInnes at [cathemac@earthlink.net](mailto:cathemac@earthlink.net) or Development Director, Carley Schutz at [cschutz@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:cschutz@ALAforVeterans.org). More information here: <https://alafoundation.org/about-the-foundation/>



## PROMOTE YOUR IMPACT!

Units are doing some amazing things in the spirit of service not self, *but we aren't hearing about it!* We want you to share it on our Department Facebook Group. If you aren't a member, please join.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/alaga>. And, share tidbits and photos for our newsletter - due on the 5th of each month to [PublicRelations@ALAGeorgia.com](mailto:PublicRelations@ALAGeorgia.com) to be included. Also share your great deeds to the appropriate national committee's Facebook page.

## VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

Message from National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chair, Coral May Grout

February, 2025

My thanks to everyone across our land for the amazing things you are doing for veterans! Don't forget to share what you are doing on social media, through your local media sources, verbally with friends and family, and wherever you have chance to share. The ALA is an outstanding Organization. None of us does the volunteer work we do for publicity, but by not "tooting our horns," we lose possible members. People within our communities know there is an American Legion/Auxiliary/SAL/Riders group, but many don't realize how valuable we are to our communities.



This all leads to reporting. Very soon, your annual reports will be due. I'm asking every Department chair to please have a conversation with someone in every Unit to ensure your get a report this year. Congress reads our National Reports, but with less than 50% reporting, they don't see the entire picture of what we do.

Valentine's Day is this month! Remember our Veterans with a card, visit, or flowers. Send those cards and letters to our enlisted. They appreciate it so much!

*Coral*

### GEORGIA AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY - JUNIOR LEADERSHIP CAMP

**POST 82: ELLIJAY ★ 5/31 - 6/6, 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).

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.**

**#AMPUPMISSION**

The American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Georgia

3035 Mt Zion Road  
Stockbridge GA 30281

678.289.8446

[www.aladepgtga.com](http://www.aladepgtga.com)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/alaga](https://www.facebook.com/groups/alaga)



## COMPLIANCE RESOURCES

**NOT SO FUN FACT:** About half of Georgia's units and districts have lost IRS tax-exempt status. In 2024-2025 the National ALA asks that we to increase our level of compliance.

All Unit and District officers are encouraged to seek information and *ask questions*:

- Does the Unit/District comply with the IRS?
- Is the person designated as the **IRS RESPONSIBLE PARTY** for the Unit/District alive? ... active in the unit? ... able to continue to represent the unit?
- Does the Unit/District have an annual checklist and transition plan for compliance and all things financial?

### Resources:

#### Revocation & Reinstatement Webinar PowerPoint

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:8ca7502c-2dcb-4cd3-b11b-2104c45c3d65>

#### ALA IRS "Cliff Notes"

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:b23585e1-db8f-4eca-a7b4-6996755ab2bf>

#### Important Compliance Information

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:f4f0b4d2-87bb-461a-867c-c4f256360d31>

#### Important Compliance Resources

- <https://www.legion-aux.org/Member/Committees/Audit/Important-Compliance-Information>
- <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:67c7e057-56fa-4ade-86cb-62ca9ac78a02>

#### Supplemental Instructions

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:f30bf595-1181-47d3-9890-49a4f35e20b1>

[There are two ALA ACADEMY COURSES available for all members](#) to take to be able to ask more questions and help get back into compliance. FREE! Just a bit of time to review and learn.

- COMPLIANCE MATTERS
- TAX-EXEMPT STATUS: REVOCATION & REINSTATEMENT

GO TO THIS LINK: <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/online-training>



## CIVILITY

Or wait? Should this be titled **GOVERNING DOCUMENTS**? **Governing documents provide a framework for maintaining civility and fostering good will** by clearly defining the organization's structure and governance roles.

In the ALA, its Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules establish guidance for protecting the organization through sound governance.

### OUR MEMBERS LOOK TO OUR GOVERNING DOCUMENTS WHEN THERE ARE PROBLEMS.

We know from past ALA surveys that incivility is the main reason this organization is unable to retain members.

The facts are that within 3 years of joining the American Legion Auxiliary, 45% of these "new" members drop out.

*Read your unit & department constitution, bylaws, standing rules & policies. Heck, read national's too!*



This year, let's make sure we not only read them but review them to ensure they include the following key sections:

- Executive Committee (board) composition and responsibilities;
- Discipline (members and executive committee members)
- Positions that have authority to call special meetings & how they are called;
- How the unit oversees money including tracking designated funds;
- Quorum requirements for EC and general membership meetings;
- Duties of what position and when the 990 will be filed;
- Amendment article including how and who has authority to amend in all three sections – constitution, bylaws and standing rules.
- Contain language about who has authority to engage and sign contracts

There's more. The above, if included, really helps the unit thrive and remain civil.

## References

### Governing Documents

- Constitution
- Bylaws
- Standing Rules
- Policies
- Procedures
- Code of Conduct & Code of Ethics

### Unit Guide Book April 2024

### ALA Academy - Log in, under Meetings/Trainings

### ALA Constitution & Bylaws Page

[member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/constitution](https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/constitution)

Department of Georgia

[www.aladepgta.com/governing-documents](http://www.aladepgta.com/governing-documents)

## LEGISLATIVE: IT IS OUR MISSION TOO!

**THE AMERICAN LEGION IS THE VOICE OF U.S. MILITARY VETERANS AND SERVICEMEMBERS.** Time for you to be loud and proud and advocate for the Legion!

If you know who your representative is but you are unable to contact them using their contact form, the Clerk of the House maintains addresses and phone numbers of all House members and Committees, or you may call 📞 (202) 224-3121 for the U.S. House switchboard operator. 📞 [#alalegislation](https://www.facebook.com/AlaLegislation)

When learning about the Legislative program remember "Our Impact" from the home page of [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org) **Our Impact:** We are one of the nation's most prominent supporters of veterans, military, and their families. We help to advance the mission of The American Legion. From helping to draft the GI Bill in 1944 to advocating for veterans on Capitol Hill, the nonpartisan American Legion Family is instrumental in advancing legislation that improves the quality of life for our nation's veterans and servicemembers.



### Websites with Legislative Planning Information:

1. *The American Legion Auxiliary Legislative Website*- <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/legislative>
2. *American Legion Legislative Action Center* <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home>
3. *Legislative Advocacy Guide*- [https://member.legion-aux.org/cmsdesk/ALA/media/PDF/Guides/Legislative\\_Advocacy\\_Guide.pdf](https://member.legion-aux.org/cmsdesk/ALA/media/PDF/Guides/Legislative_Advocacy_Guide.pdf)
4. *The American Legion Dispatch*- <https://www.legion.org/dispatch>
5. *How to Host a Meet the Candidates Night*- <https://member.legion-aux.org/Member/Committees/Legislative/How-to-Host-a-Meet-the-Candidate-Night>



**THE GRASSROOTS ACTION CENTER** <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home> is up and running with the Legion's agenda for the 119<sup>th</sup> US Congress.

<https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/legislative/2025/january/the-legions-agenda-for-congress>

The Major Richard Star Act is a new focus which is legislation that if approved will allow some 53,000 combat retired veterans to collect both their military retirement and VA disability concurrently, without an offset. Read more [HERE](#) and at <https://www.majorrichardstaract.org/>



**CHALLENGE!** *The National* Legislative Committee challenges departments to increase participation in corresponding with our legislators through the Action Alerts. **The challenge began November 10 and is quarterly.** Each department and division to have the highest percentage of correspondence numbers based on 2025 paid memberships each quarter in response to the Legion's Action Alert will be recognized. The Legion will provide the data each quarter to and that will be used to determine the quarterly winners. Soooooo.. get counted and record the hours you "SERVE" while surfing the internet and TAKING ACTION!

Get connected and join the ALA's official Legislative Facebook group. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALALegislative>



# NATIONAL COMMANDER'S VISIT



**#AMPUPMISSION**

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2024-2025 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHERYL WAYBIGHT





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2024-2025 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHERYL WAYBIGHT







The Walton Tribune Wednesday, January 22, 2025 C1



Friday, Jan. 17, was a special day for American Legion Post 64 in Macon. It was also a busy day. Post 64 welcomed a visit from National Commander James LaCouriere Jr. and also held a special ceremony to honor the memorial of the Poppy Lady Moira Michael. Everyone then traveled to Loganville American Post 233 for lunch and a meet and greet. (Above left) Cheryl Waybright and Cathy Hodges stand with a special memorial wreath at Michael's gravesite. (Above right) State Vice Commander Gary Ely; 10th District Commander Rick Baugh; National Commander James LaCouriere Jr.; Jim Fultz and National Executive Committee representative Randy Goodman are shown at the ceremony honoring Michael. Deborah Stewart | Special to the Tribune

## Big day for local Legion

Stephan Milligan

The local American Legion posts gathered together for a joint celebration, honoring the life of local legend Moira Michael, the Poppy Lady, while also welcoming a visit from the Legion's national commander, James LaCouriere.

LaCouriere dropped by Macon to chat with members of Post 64, then visited the gravesite of Michael, who is still honored for her part in the beginning of Memorial Day and in popularizing the poppy flower as the symbol of honoring the fallen soldiers of past wars, which the Legion still does today.

The commander was then escorted to Loganville's Post 233 by the American Legion Riders, where lunch

was held, along with a commemoration of the commander's visit in Walton County.

"It is a great honor and privilege to be here at Post 233," LaCouriere said. "I always like to see our 14,000 posts across the nation go beyond the walls of the post and get involved in the communities, and you obviously do that. We truly are family."

LaCouriere also spoke about his primary focus as commander, an emphasis on helping veterans struggling with mental health issues and homelessness.

"Together, we can de-stigmatize mental health and let people know it's OK to not be OK," LaCouriere said.

He asked Legion members and guests to donate to the Veterans

and Children's Foundation and said it was vital to do what's possible to help other veterans in need.

Tom Williams, former Post 233 commander, talked about what the Loganville post had done to help fight homelessness, particularly since the pandemic began.

"Since 2020, this Legion has donated \$450,000 to the housing and feeding of veterans," Williams said. "We have tried to ease the burden where we could. We were housing 20 veterans and families at any one time."

Current Post 233 Commander Fritz Siler said it was still a major priority.

"It's been a hard road to hoe, but it's one we believe in," he said. "We continue to do the right thing to aid lives."



American Legion National Commander James LaCouriere, third from left, was a special guest in Walton County Jan. 17. Deborah Stewart | Special to the Tribune



(Above left) State Representative Roy Martinez makes a special presentation to American Legion National Commander James LaCouriere Jr. (Above right) Riders prepare to make the trek to Loganville to hear from the American Legion National Commander. Deborah Stewart | Special to the Tribune



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2024-2025 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHERYL WAYBIGHT



# NEW TOOL: UNIT ANNUAL CHECKLIST

Page 1 of 2

## Unit Annual Checklist Department of Georgia 2024-2025

### Mandatory Items:

- ❖ **Registered with IRS and File 990** **DUE: Varies**
  - **Go To:** <https://www.aladdeptga.com/governing-documents> for department guidance
  - **Go To:** <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/obtaining-an-employer-identification-number-for-an-exempt-organization> for information on how to proceed with registration if necessary
  - **Go To:** <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/annual-filing-and-forms> for guidance on filing the required 990
  - **Go To:** <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/return-due-dates-for-exempt-organizations-annual-return> for timing. Check with unit/District Treasurer to get tax year
  - Refer to Department Roadmap for Financial Compliance for additional information
- ❖ **Register with Secretary of State** **DUE: 1 Jan – 1 Apr**
  - **Go To:** <https://ecorp.sos.ga.gov/>
  - Refer to Department Roadmap for Financial Compliance for additional information
- ❖ **Department Mandatory Obligations:** **DUE: Before 1 Apr**
  - **Go To:** Required Unit Forms at <https://www.aladdeptga.com/forms-1>
- ❖ **Record Retention and Disposal (agendas/minutes/etc.)** **DUE: Varies and on-going**
  - **Go To:** <https://www.aladdeptga.com/governing-documents> for guidance
  - **Go To:** the ALA National Headquarters Record Retention Schedule for more information <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/guides/constitution-bylaws> Page 101
- ❖ **Charitable Gaming (Raffles and Bingo, etc.)** **DUE: Oct**
  - Is it current? Renew every year by Oct
  - For Bingo ensure appropriate Sec State certified background checks are accomplished
  - **Go To:** <https://ecorp.sos.ga.gov/>
  - Check with appropriate local officials for approval (ex: Sheriff's Office, etc.)
  - File State Sales taxes **Go TO:** <https://ecorp.sos.ga.gov/>
- ❖ **Implement Membership Processing/Reporting Policy** **DUE: At Installation/on-going**
  - **Go To:** for policy and procedures related to membership [https://www.aladdeptga.com/files/ugd/76bc83\\_8c5d6c482ea54fffb4ff796adde39735.pdf](https://www.aladdeptga.com/files/ugd/76bc83_8c5d6c482ea54fffb4ff796adde39735.pdf)
  - Update ALAMIS annually for access by new officers **DUE: NLT 30 days after election**

UNIT CHECKLIST | Version 1/Oct 2024

# NEW TOOL: UNIT ANNUAL CHECKLIST

Page 2 of 2

## Unit Annual Checklist Department of Georgia 2024-2025

### ❖ Review department Governing Documents DUE:

Within 30 days of installation

- Constitution, Bylaws, Standing Rules, Policies and Procedures, Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics
- Refer to Department Roadmap for Governing Documents
- **Go to:** <https://www.aladepgga.com/governing-documents>

### Highly Encouraged to have:

- ❖ **Familiarize yourself with Unit Guide Book** **Due:** Within 30 days of Installation
  - **Go To:** <https://www.aladepgga.com/ala-guide-books>
- ❖ **Budget:** successful units have an operating budget **DUE:** Varies
  - **Go To :** Department training program for additional help (See Finance Committee)
  - Review monthly bank statements
- ❖ Conduct Audit of Unit funds **Due:** Varies
  - Refer to Department Roadmap for Financial Compliance for additional information
- ❖ Familiarize and Utilize as appropriate all Auxiliary Forms **Due:** Varies
  - Utilize Department Resources on DOG website
  - **Go To:** <https://www.aladepgga.com/forms-1> for more information

### Things that make you a better Unit:

- ❖ **Take ALA Training offered through ALA Academy**
  - **Go To:** <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/online-training>
- ❖ Familiarize yourself with revitalization efforts
  - Refer to the Roadmap for Revitalization and Conflict Resolution
  - Good for every unit to look closely at themselves
- ❖ Voluntary Contributions
  - Refer to Department Mandatory Obligations and Voluntary Contributions Form
- ❖ Unit Facebook Page or Website?
  - Create a Facebook page to communicate with your community(this is free)
  - Unit Website? If you don't have one, this could cost money. Partner with your Post if they have one
- ❖ Write articles for the local Newspaper
  - Local papers may allow free weekly submissions

UNIT CHECKLIST | Version 1/Oct 2024





DEPARTMENT SPRING CONFERENCE - DULUTH  
MARCH 21. 22. 23. 2025  
REGISTRATION ONLY

Sonesta Gwinnett Place Atlanta (Non-Smoking Hotel)  
1775 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth, GA 30096 (770-923-1775)  
Department Executive Committee Meeting - Thursday, 20 March 2025 at 6:00 PM

Guest REGISTRATION LGN ( ) SAL ( ) AUX ( ) ALR ( ) 1<sup>st</sup> Time Attendee ( )

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / STATE / ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ POST: \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_

***You Must Make Your Own Room Reservations / Active link:***

<https://be.synxis.com/?Hotel=58939&Chain=5157&arrive=2025-03-20&depart=2025-03-23&adult=1&child=0&group=03202025THEA>

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Dial 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

**Number attending Banquet:** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$45.00 per person: \_\_\_\_\_

**Number Registering for Conference:** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20.00 per person: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Registration and or Banquet Info: Make checks or money orders payable to:**

**AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form in full and return to: The American Legion, Department of Georgia  
3035 Mt. Zion Road, Stockbridge, GA 30281

<https://be.synxis.com/?Hotel=58939&Chain=5157&arrive=2025-03-20&depart=2025-03-23&adult=1&child=0&group=03202025THEA>

**Deadline: Friday, March 14, 2025**