

# DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA AUXILIARY NEWS

April 2020  
Volume 10, Issue 9



## A Word from the President

By Valerie Brown-Debro, Department President

### APRIL REFLECTIONS



Corona Virus has affected our Nation our families and loved one's health is at risk. The CDC has classified it as pandemic. We need our Angels to stay strong, stand in agreement praying for our families, active military. First Responders, health care Nurses, Doctors, truck drivers and Leaders of the nation. We are more than conquerors in God who gives us strength. This too shall pass! We had to cancel our Spring conference due to the spreading of the Covid-19 virus, our main concern is the health and well-being of our members.

Our ALA National President canceled the remaining of the Mission Training #201 in TN and NM. You should have received your refund if you registered for any of the trainings. The National Commanders visit in April has been canceled and all the VA Hospital visits. National Staff is working remotely from home, business as usual.

We had so much to share and celebrate our accomplishments in the ALA Department of Georgia. However, using safe practices, social distancing has kept many of us apart. Over the past few weeks, I have been on conference calls with our American Legion Department Headquarters and National Headquarters on how we are going to proceed with future meetings held at local post/units Girls State/Boys State, Nominations, Elections and future Convention.

We received an email from National to follow your govern documents, hold steadfast to the directions of your local officials, follow the rules of the government. Updates on the Covid-19 Corona virus: [www.CDC.gov/coronavirus](http://www.CDC.gov/coronavirus)

As we continue to watch the flow from the CDC, the President of the United States, and our ALA National organization, we went from social distancing ourselves from 250 in a crowd down to 10 in a crowd. From the closing down malls and beaches, limiting how to attend a funeral service. Many indoors restaurants have closed, only drive through services. Grocery stores are limiting how much food we can purchase, offering services to Seniors in the A.M selected stores and and times

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may vary, and even how we attend our church services has moved to online and drive-in worshipping.

Many businesses have closed their doors, and this will cause loss of jobs for many. Our members have resources through Auxiliary Emergency Funds, if your membership is current and has been for over the past few years, info available at [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org)

Take care of yourselves and your families. Use this time to do a wellness check on your members ALA Department will keep you engaged with our meetings and DEC recommendations the decisions made for the good of the auxiliary. We will continue to disburse pertinent information as received. Members can use this time to bring awareness of your committees, encouraging each other through phone calls, snail mail, internet email and social media.

Take time to work on your annual reports, gather pictures that we could share. Post on our American Legions Auxiliary Dept. of GA Facebook page. Use this time to explore our New Department website [www.ALADeptga.com](http://www.ALADeptga.com) and resources available at <https://www.alaforveterans.org> to learn more about ALA Academy courses, who we are and what we do that matters. Praying for all!

ALA Department of Georgia **9/11 Angels Serving Every Veteran.**

For God and Country.  
Valerie Brown-Debro

## Secretary

By Patty Hawkins, Department Secretary

**We have great News!!**  
**Our new website is ready 😊**  
[www.aladdeptga.com](http://www.aladdeptga.com)

### The Coronavirus Pandemic 2020

This is a devastating time for all of us. But, it is bringing us all together to realize we are all the same, we all want what is best for our family, our friends and Our Country. I have seen such an outpouring of love by complete strangers, reaching out to those in need. Helping get their groceries, taking them meals, sharing extra Toilet Paper, paper towels, diapers/wipes, masks and picking up medicines for our elderly. Just being neighborly like in the past years. It warms the heart to see this, joining together, praying for all of us that we stay well. It is a time where we can reach out to an old friend or Unit member just to let them know you are thinking about them. We will overcome this, it may take longer than we want but we will make it. So, take care and use precaution for God is on our side. Be sure to stay in and only go out if necessary. It is every individual's responsibility to help stop it virus. Safety First as always.

The American Legion is asking for Members who are planning on coming to the Department Convention in June to go ahead and send in the form requests. **DO NOT send any checks**, as we don't know when or where we will be at at that time. Just trying to see how many would come.

You can find the forms on [www.aladdeptga.com](http://www.aladdeptga.com) look under Department of GA Convention. Banquet forms are also listed. You can also find all our Committee Report Forms/ Impact forms here. List of forms that have been updated: Delegates/Alternates, District Officers form, Unit Officers yearly form, Unit Data Form 2021, 2021 Dues Rate Change and Committee Report Forms. Also our [Rules & Regulations for Awards/Trophies](#) are up to date.

Let's all take this time to reflect on who we are and why we do the things that we do for our veterans.

**We are still trying to carry out our day to day business. We are here to help in anyway we can. Things will be a little slower due to not having access of the office and equipment, but be patient we will survice. We will try to keep the membership updated as long as we have some coming in. Take Care and I am praying for all of us. See you Soon 😊**

## 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/ Leadership

By Susan Hall, Dept. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

I hope everyone is doing well and staying safe during these trying times. I have been keeping busy at home and keeping in touch on what all our ALA members and units have been doing to help in this crisis. We as an organization have stepped up to help serve lunches, make masks for our nurses, hospitals and first responders, and by calling our members to make sure they are ok as well as other things to help. It makes me proud to be a member of this great organization to see this. You are the leaders. I am looking forward to seeing what the future holds for us all. We must keep moving forward in a positive way. Continue to keep in touch with all our members through what means we have so that we may plan for when we can come together again to continue the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Reminder that your Leadership reports are still due to me by May 1<sup>st</sup>. I would prefer that you email them to me until the crisis is over. My email address is [suem\\_66@yahoo.com](mailto:suem_66@yahoo.com). I received 2 District and 5 Unit Yearbooks. I have sent out an email to those that sent me a Yearbook and have sent those that requested them back before the convention, I will have the others in June, at that time I will announce the winners.

Susan Hall  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

## Resolutions

### Joann Meadows, Chairperson

Resolution must be in the hand of the Resolution Chairperson NO later than June 4, 2020 (NOT just postmarked June 4, 2020). Mail three copies to: Joann Meadows, 105 Woodridge Drive, NW, Woodridge Estates, Calhoun GA. 30701-9424 and one copy to: American Legion Auxiliary, Dept of GA., 3035 Mount Zion Rd., Stockbridge, GA 30281 to arrive NO later than June 4, 2020. If you need another one it is on the website [www.aladdeptga.com](http://www.aladdeptga.com) under Member Resources.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Membership

By Pat Morgan, Department 2<sup>nd</sup> VP

Greeting Georgia Angels. Spring is here and I hope this finds all members healthy and in good spirits.

Now more than ever we need to strengthen our organization during these difficult and trying times.

If you or any of your members are able, please consider assisting those that may need help. Perhaps contacting an elderly member or neighbor that need to just hear from someone by way of texting, email, phone calls or face time so they don't feel so isolated. Just because we're staying at home, it doesn't mean we can't reach out to one another.

Our "Week of Caring and Sharing" is April 1-7. This is a way to add that personal touch to reuniting and connecting with current and former members. Any communication made during this time at home will count toward the Week of Caring and Sharing. Encourage your members to pay online or pay National over the phone. The forms are located on the Department website under the "News Bulletins" section. Remember to add this information to your year-end report that is due May 1, 2020.

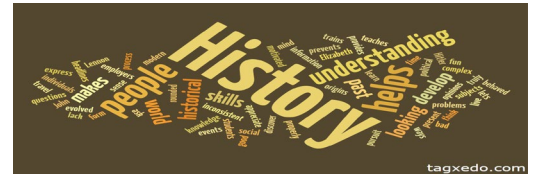
Thank you for all your continued efforts and if I can assist you in any way, please free to contact me by email at [pimorga@aol.com](mailto:pimorga@aol.com) or 2229 Johnson Short Rd., Quitman, GA 31643 or at (229) 561-4070.  
Pat Morgan

### **"Angels Working As One For Veterans"**



## HISTORIAN CORNER

By Cheryl Jackson Sinkler,



Hello ALL,

These are difficult times we are experiencing here in Georgia and throughout the world. Who would have thought we would experience a Pandemic in 2020? I know many of you have experienced similar outbreaks in the early years and are aware how it can cause a mass devastation.

Where do we go from here? Many are wondering, I'm sure. As the news report history every day, there are many concerns wondering if the reports accurate or true. Each news channel reports different facts but leads to the same outcome about Corona Virus. The fact is right now, there isn't a cure. History is based on facts, running accounts of what has happens in your Unit.

Some history facts thus far:

FACT: This is the first time American Legion has a shutdown in history!

FACT: Spring Conference was canceled, and other activities were halted as well.

FACT: Posts will temporarily close.

FACT: We will lose some of our members to this virus.

FACT: Units will continue to conduct business but just in a different way.

FACT: The Organization will have to adjust usual practices.

Although, change is part of evolving and makes the world go around. What can we do to aide with those changes that are taking place? Be a collaborator and not an instigator. Support and don't judge. These changes are new to many. If you see flaws don't use this opportunity to bash help with a suggestion or solution. Again, these are trying times, and everyone should ALL be on board with the changes ahead.

Good news, if you are wanting to submit a History Book. I received approval from our Department President stating you may submit via email. Please be sure to follow protocol with submissions. All books must be sent to your Districts first.

God bless you ALL and you ALL are in my prayers!

Cheryl Jackson-Sinkler  
Dept. of GA - Historian  
770-875-5987  
[cheryl.jackson08@yahoo.com](mailto:cheryl.jackson08@yahoo.com)  
204 Possum Creek Lane  
Dallas. GA 30132

# Department Chaplain

By: Gloria Smith Fox, Chaplain

"God didn't promise days without pain, laughter without sorrow, or sun without rain; but He did promise strength for the day, comfort for the tears, and light for the way. If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it." -Unknown

Just wanted to remind everyone to remain safe. Take the precautions especially those who are more prone to succumb to this Coronavirus. If you know of someone who needs to be careful, be sure to look out for them. Make a phone call. Take all the precautions to keep them safe. And remember to pray for this to bring families closer and look at what is really important in life.

May God bless and keep each one of you till we meet again! And remember...if you wake up in the morning just give God the thanks, and go about His business. With much love and hugs to you all! ...And you all know I AM A HUGGER!!! Gonna have a lot of hugging going on when this is done! Smile....Love you all!

Gloria Smith Fox  
Department of Georgia Auxiliary Chaplain  
Email: [amlegauxglo@gmail.com](mailto:amlegauxglo@gmail.com)  
Cell: 478-293-4043

## Poppy Poster Contest

The deadline for the Poppy Poster Contest is May 1<sup>st</sup>. Download the instructions and contact Pauline McKinny, Poppy Chair

[pmckinny@gmail.com](mailto:pmckinny@gmail.com)  
678.446.2302

## American Legion Auxiliary Honor Our Female Veterans

For Female Veterans who join as new members for the 2020 Membership Year, the national portion of dues (\$12) will be waived for their first year of membership.

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Georgia voted at our Fall Conference in 2015, for Female Veterans who join as new members for the 2020 Membership Year, the Department's portion will also be waived for their first year of membership.

Some of the Units are waiving their membership portion as well.

Ladies this is one way we can Honor Our Female Veterans and build our membership. Lets' make them feel welcome!

## ALA MIS PROGRAM ACCESS for Units/District Membership *Monies are DUE into Dept when Access is Requested.*

The fee is \$10 per year per person (2 per Unit). This is the fee National charges. Forms are on the website or call the Department for copies. Due to the enforced rules all forms must be completed and signed by 5 current Unit Officer. At no time is an authorized person using ALA MIS is to share their password with anyone. If a person needs to be changed please send in a new form right away. Please let us know ASAP.

If Unit wants to continue having access to the ALA MIS the department must receive new forms and \$10 for each person per calendar year.

**New:** District Presidents can now have access to all the Units in their districts. This will be a read only and cannot make any changes. The fee is \$10 and will be good until December.

# Announcements

## Candidates for Department Officers

### 2020 - 2021

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*Milltown Unit 336  
Lakeland, Georgia  
And  
The Twelfth District*

*Have the honor to present*

*Susan M. Hall*

*As a candidate for  
President*

*American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Georgia  
2020-2021*

*Susanne Smith  
Unit President*

*Carol Moore  
Secretary*



*The Twelfth District  
Department of Georgia*

*Has the honor to present*

*Pat Morgan*

*As a candidate for  
First Vice President*

*American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Georgia  
2020-2021*

*Lenora VanPelt  
District President*

*Susan Hall  
Secretary*

# Announcements

## Candidates for Department Officers

### 2020 - 2021



*Paul E. Kelly Jr. Unit 296  
Marietta, Georgia  
And  
The Fifth District*

*Have the honor to present*

*Cheryl Jackson-Sinkler*

*As a candidate for  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*

*American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Georgia  
2020-2021*

*Carla Thomas  
Unit President*

*Shunna Kellogg  
Secretary*



*Samuel G. Cooke Unit 267  
Columbus, Georgia  
And  
The Third District*

*Have the honor to present*

*Pamela Stroud*

*As a candidate for  
Historian*

*American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Georgia  
2020-2021*

*Pamela Robichaux  
Unit President*

*Barbara Miller  
Secretary*

# Juniors Corner

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Can you believe that the year is almost over? With these difficult times we are facing and the uncertainty of the outcome, we need to be checking on each other more than ever. Hope you all are doing well and staying safe. Please be sure to use caution when you are out and about.

April is Children and Youth month and Month of the Military Child, so remember our children. Friday, April 3, 2020 is "Purple Up! for Military Kids Day." So wear your purple to show your support and thank the Military children.

Juniors Activities reports are due by May 1, 2020. Please remember to send in the individual Patch Program forms to me along with the regular report. I cannot order the patches without these forms.

Please let me know if you have any questions. My email is: [thepaytons1@gmail.com](mailto:thepaytons1@gmail.com).

For God and Country,  
Peggi Payton  
Juniors Activities Chairman  
Department of Georgia

## UNIT REVITALIZATION

### HOW TO CULTIVATE ACTIVE MEMBERS, Part 2

#### *Meetings, Newsletters and Personal Contact*

It's important to have a permanent place so members will know where the meetings will be held. Ensure that all members know the time, place and date of each meeting. Control the length of your meetings by using an agenda. Copies of the agenda can be printed for each member or it can be written on a large flip poster or poster paper to be displayed.

As a side note, to prevent bickering at a meeting, the President can point to the agenda and mention that "bickering" is not on the agenda!

Newsletters can contain a list of future activities or a report of what has been done recently. Always give the members information about unit activities as a member might see an event in which they'd like to participate. Always include a reminder about the meeting time, place and date. The goal is to motivate the reader to wish she had been at the meeting. If a Unit does not have the resources to produce a newsletter, email messages can be sent to the members to keep them informed.

It is recommended that each Unit have a member visitation program to reach members through personal contact. Former members have said that the main reason that they did not renew was because no one contacted them after they were mailed their membership card. Unit leaders have to make members feel appreciated. Units can establish a Calling Committee - members who keep in touch with other members who do not attend meetings - and a Welcoming Committee - members who keep in touch with new members to explain more about Auxiliary programs, to invite participation and to show that the Auxiliary is a caring organization.

For God and Country, Sarah Zingarelli, chairman



## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY CHILDREN & YOUTH



*“CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF SERVICE”*

### SOUTHERN DIVISION NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2020



#### *April is the Month of the Military Child*

Each year, April is set aside as a military child appreciation month, officially known as Month of the Military Child, recognizing the important role military children play in the military community, the sacrifices they are making and the challenges they have to overcome.

Started in the mid-1980s by Caspar Weinberger, the Pentagon and other military support organizations and agencies designate the month of April to recognize military kids for their sacrifice and bravery on the Homefront.. The term "military brat" is a title proudly worn by many generations of children who traveled the world with their parents, ensuring them that they have the strength to handle anything. Military children must cope with separations, deployments, frequent moves and even their parents' injuries as part of the life they were born into. Although they did choose this lifestyle these brave sons and daughters are committed to support their military parents.

The American Legion Family joins the Department of Defense in celebrating these young warriors.

#### **The Military Child's Table Ceremony**

The Military Child's Table Setting was inspired by the POW/MIA ceremony to honor the sacrifices and contributions of our military children.

The Potted Flowering Plant symbolizes that they may flower and flourish where planted.

The Hand Spade recognizes that they may be transplanted to a new location any place in the world at a moment's notice, where they become fully immersed in the culture, make new friends and acclimate themselves to a new school.

The Birthday Hat and Unlit Candles...Baseball Glove and Ball...and Ballet Slippers represent the fact that, sometimes special occasions are missed by one or both parents while serving their country.

The Family Photo depicting a child or children with their uniformed parent represents the foundation of our country's strength.



Source: [alaforveterans.wordpress.com](http://alaforveterans.wordpress.com)



Families united in their commitment to national service and willing to make any sacrifice, both at home and abroad...to ensure that our flag continues to fly free.

In the month of April we set aside time to recognize military families and their children for the sacrifices they make, the resilience they display and the challenges they overcome. While they are able to see the world, meet new people, and have all kinds of interesting experiences, it can be challenging to be uprooted every 2-3 year, leaving friends behind and starting over at a new school. According to the Department of Defense Education Activity the average child in a military family moves six to nine times during a school career which represents three times more frequently than the average non-military family.



Source: U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Gretchen M.

Albrecht, <https://militarybenefits.info/month-of-the-military-child/>

What can we as the American Legion Auxiliary do to promote Military Kids Month?



**Although activities are limited due to the current COVID19 pandemic, there are still lots of things to do to honor our military children:**

**Participate in “Purple Up! For Military Kids”– DoD communities** wear purple to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices. Purple symbolizes the combined colors of all branches of the military-Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red, and Navy blue. Although you may not be able to go out in the community you can always show your support on social media (wearing purple, hold up a banner or homemade sign etc.)

**Feature the Month of the Military on your Website and Social Media** - Many American Legion families have a website and a Social Media page where the Month of the Military Child can be promoted.

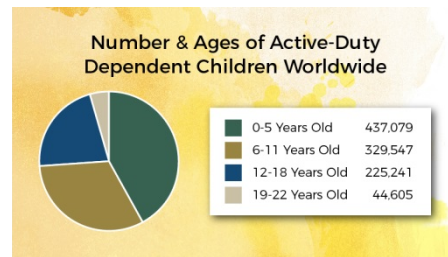
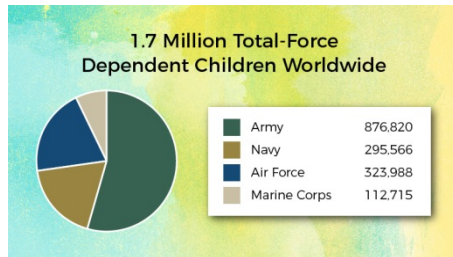
**Publicize in Community Events**—Publicize the meaning of the Month of the Military Child through local radio and TV stations since we currently are not able to participate in any events.

**Military readiness programs** – through these programs we can serve as a support system for children and their families.  
**Military Child Appreciation Day** – You might not be able to have a designated day in the near future to invite families and community leaders to the post to discuss the challenges military children are facing, but we shouldn't only remember these children one month out of the year. Sponsor an event at the Post home at a later date and

invite subject-matter experts on child safety, health and education; having a firetruck or law enforcement vehicles at these events are always a highlight.

If you have military families in your neighborhood, send them a card to let them know they are appreciated and thought of.

### Military Children – By the numbers in 2018



Source: [https://dod.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0418\\_militarychild/](https://dod.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0418_militarychild/)

Let's give these children a big salute for their sacrifices.

Please note that May will be here before we know it and you know what that means.....,it's End-of the Year reporting time. Let's make sure that the Southern Division is at 100% reporting this time.

Helpful websites:

[www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org)

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

<https://www.alaforveterans.org/Programs/Children-and-Youth/>

If you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance please contact me at (706)951-3906 or [barnettgabriele@hotmail.com](mailto:barnettgabriele@hotmail.com)

Thank you for everything you do for our programs.

For God and Country,

Gabriele Barnett



\*

**President's Theme:**

**"9-11 Angels Serving Every Veteran"**

**Membership Theme:**

**"Angels Working As One For Veterans"**

**National President's Theme:**

**"A Century worth Celebrating"**

## Calendar of Upcoming Events 2020

April 1, 2020	April Fool's Day
April 5, 2020	Palm Sunday
April 10, 2020	Good Friday
April 12, 2020	Easter Sunday
April 20, 2020	Patriot's Day
April 24, 2020	Arbor Day
June 19 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2020	Department Convention Sonesta Gwinnett DEC Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> 6:00PM

**Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday American Legion Auxiliary!!!!**

**"A Century worth Celebrating"**

**NOVEMBER 10, 1919 - 2019**

**Still going strong 😊**



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

