

DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA AUXILIARY NEWS

July 2020
Volume 10, Issue 12



A Word from the President

By Valerie Brown-Debro, Department President



July Reflection

Who we are and what we do that matters? A big shout out to all the committee chairman who judged awards and sent in your reports. Our members volunteer their time, talents even give so unselfishly their own monetary donations. The dedication to our veterans, active military families and communities is such a privilege to serve.

It's saddens my heart to see some program reports were not applied for or not even awarded. What can we do to help, let me restate that question, what can I do to help? Starting with the woman/man in the mirror, we really need to re-evaluate why we belong. Are we losing interest or is it not a priority in our lives to report what we do that matters. It is a disservice and negligence on our part to not report, on our behalf to our veterans to congress.

We can't say that we didn't have enough time, due to the pandemic, that wouldn't be a reasonable excuse, we had more time on our hands in more ways than one.

My prayer is that we remember it's that veteran who served to protect the lives of our fellow citizens that we could have a better today and a brighter tomorrow.

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Thank you to all the Department Committee Chairs for serving and for sending in reports and judging the reports. Thanks to our Trophy & Awards Chairperson, Linda Brock and Co-Chair, Judy Thompson on confirming the awards received.

There were (54) reports for 2019-2020 that will receive **certificates**, when we have our conference or convention. (7) **President reports Not applied for**. (4) **Chaplain reports -Not Judged**, (1) **Unit History- Not awarded** (2) **General Excellence Not awarded** (2) **Leadership Not awarded**, (4) **Membership Not awarded** (3) **Poppy Not Awarded**, (1) **PR Not awarded**

Thank you to all of our officers, members and families for sharing a remarkable year!

“Not everything that is faced can be changes, but nothing can be changed until it is faced” James Baldwin

Thank you for serving together, God Bless the U.S.A.

Valerie Brown-Debro

Secretary

By Patty Hawkins, Department Secretary

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 2021 Membership cards are in. If your forms have been sent the office, you can do a field trip to the Department to pick them up or we will mail them. Just email us, to let us know how you would like to get them. We will need a date and time if picking up the cards.

****Please make sure all your Department Obligations have been paid.****

Notices were sent out to all Units that have not paid some or all obligations. I have received some back but not all. These are Mandatory Obligations and must be paid yearly. If you missed a year the Unit is still responsible to pay, so please take care of the Obligations. I will be sending out another Notice for those that have not paid.

You can find the forms on www.aladeptga.com, our website under Member Resources. We have lots on important informations on the website, so use it. If there is something that you would like to see on the website, send us an email and we will see if we can make it happen.

A Fall Conference is being planned. The forms are included in this newsletter. Please send them in and if something happens and it gets cancelled you will be notified.

St:



1st Vice President/ Leadership

By Susan Hall, Dept. 1st Vice President

Happy Fourth of July!

I hope everyone is doing well during these times.

If there is any unit that would like to host a Leadership Workshop for the 2020-2021 year please contact me by phone or email.

Please continue to work on the ALA Academy classes, at www.alaforveterans.org and remember to print out the certificate of completion and forward to me. There are 8 different courses: ALA 101, ALA Communication Methods, ALA Leadership, Establishing a culture of Good Will, ALA Branding, ALA Juniors E-Learning, ALA Fundraising and How to deal with Conflict. Watch for new online courses. The National website is full of information to help your units grow and thrive.

With the Covid-19 still growing here in Georgia there are no Leadership Workshops currently. I hope to have a couple in the 2020-2021 year based on the health emergency.

Stay safe and hope to see you soon. If anyone has any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me by phone or email.

Susan Hall
1st Vice President
Suem 66@yahoo.com



2nd Vice President/Membership

By Pat Morgan, Department 2nd VP

Hello Georgia Angels! As we start our new year with the Auxiliary and the state is beginning to open up, we are trying to get use to our new "normal"

A great option to renew membership dues is paying over the phone to National at [317-569-4570](tel:317-569-4570) or online at www.alaforveterans.org. A membership number is required.

The Membership Awards will be the same this year, (10X10 and Recruit/Rejoin 5) with a few date changes. The Unit Award for 100% is to reach goal by November 10, 2020. The unit will be placed into a random drawing from which 100 units will be selected to receive \$100 from National.

Membership Goals for the units will be 1 member over the membership as of August 3, 2020.

Also, National Headquarters is discontinuing the "Honor Female Veteran" program. The \$12 portion of membership dues will no longer be waived by Headquarters. This is done so as to not exclude any Veteran, since we now accept male spouses in the Auxiliary.

The 1st renewal notices will be sent out from National by September 15, 2020 and the 2nd notices by early 2021.

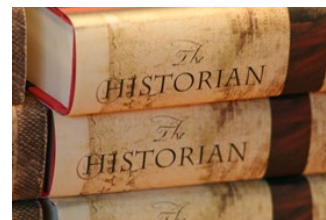
Thank you for all your continued efforts and if I can assist you in any way, please feel free to contact me by email at pimorga@aol.com or 2229 Johnson Short Rd., Quitman, GA 31643 or at (229) 561-4070. Pat Morgan

"Angels Working As One For Veterans"



HISTORIAN CORNER

By Cheryl Jackson Sinkler,



Hello ALL!

I hope everyone is doing well and keeping a 6 ft distance from others. Please put your safety first. If you are able, stay home and only travel to necessary places. We are in a serious crisis right now.

I'm sure many of you are feeling restless and maybe a little tired of not being able to move about doing your daily routines. Use this time to reflect, enjoy family and getting much needed things in order, or even make necessary changes of what is important to you and weed out what is not.

Well, I'm sure by now you have heard the current Dept. Of GA Officers are staying in place for another year. This has never happened before in the American Legion Auxiliary history! We are experiencing a historical moment. Also, many Districts and Units are following suit. Keep in mind some changes are necessary for the organization. Please continue to support those in office and help be a part of the solution never be the cause of a demise. You don't want to be known as the negative person. If you were at our Leadership trainings remember the skit, we presented of the new member who "Walked away from the organization"!

Please submit history reports by May 2nd and submit to my email or address type below! If you have any questions please contact me and I will gladly assist. NO HISTORY BOOKS WILL BE JUDGED THIS YEAR. PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT.

Again, everyone please stay safe and secure. God bless and I miss seeing you ALL,

Cheryl Jackson-Sinkler
Historian – Dept. Of Georgia
770-875-5987
Cheryl.jackson08@yahoo.com
204 Possum Creek Lane
Dallas, GA 30132

ALA DEPARTMENT OF GA
2019–2020 REPORTS

UNITS * DISTRICTS * DEPARTMENT

ALA Members in GA **will continue** with the Program Action Reporting for 2019–2020. If you sent in a report from your Unit or District to one of the Department Chairpersons, **please see** the information below on How we are proceeding with the reporting for 2019–2020 in Georgia.

We are requesting for all GA members to **submit your report To the Department Chairperson** with completed **FORMS** that are **due by May 1, 2020** The report forms are located on our Department website. www.ALADept.com

YEARBOOKS Books were due by **February 15th Leadership Chairperson Susan Hall** already judged the books and will announce winner of YearBooks. If you sent a yearbook in for judging, contact her on how to receive your book in return.

PRAYER BOOKS: NO JUDGING Still send **REPORT FORMS** to Department Chaplain **Gloria Fox Smith**.

HISTORY BOOKS NO JUDGING Still send **REPORT FORMS** to Department Historian. **Cheryl Jackson Sinkler**

SCRAPBOOKS NO JUDGING Still send **REPORT FORMS** – **Kathy Browder–Woods**.

PLEASE “DO NOT” Send any reports NATIONAL – Per updates due to **COVID–19 National** will receive reports in a **2 year** reporting period 2019–2020 & 2020–2021 **Mid–Year** reports due January 5th , **Year–end** due May 15, 2021 www.alaforveterans.org

YEAR END IMPACT REPORT FORMS 2019–2020: due April 30, 2019 Everyone

Please submit a **Year End report** for **Member, Unit, District** Department Every **hour**, every **dollar** , Our service for Veterans. Active –Duty– Retired/ Military, families and Community. every mile driven. Scholarships, Girls State, Children & Youth, Community Service, members invest in our mission of helping veterans adds up, they are also reported to the American Legion which includes them in its annual report to congress.

BOOK OF REPORTS: Department Officer and Chairman still submit your annual report **due June 15, 2020** send your copy to Valerie.Debro@yahoo.com and Secretary Patty Hawkins secamlegaux@bellsouth.net Please follow Book of Reports Rules on our Department Website. www.ALADeptGA.com

MEMBERSHIP FORMS

2021 Forms: We understand the current situation that many Units are currently experiencing with figuring out who their New Officers will be for the 2020-2021 year. While we can give lenience on some forms, we cannot do so on others. **The 2021 dues rate change form needs to be received ASAP if your dues is going to be different than it was for 2020 membership. Please make sure and send this form no later than 5/15/2020. Once that date is reached NO CHANGES can be made and your dues amount will stay the same. The 2021 Unit Data Form must also be received No Later than June 5, 2020.** Again the system will lock and No Changes will be made period! National has informed us that those dates cannot be changed and No exceptions can be made. We can give some on the New Unit Officers Form, as we are the ones who input the information. We will have some additional time to do this. If you have any questions on these forms or any membership questions the best point of contact right now would be email. Please send to amlegaux@bellsouth.net . All forms are currently available on our new website www.aladeptga.com , under Member Resources and then Forms.

Thanks, Krista

****ATTENTION Changes****

American Legion Auxiliary Honor Our Female Veterans

National will be discontinuing the HONOR FEMALE VETERANS program starting with the 2021 Membership year, the national organization will no longer waive the \$12.00 national portion of dues to female veterans that are new members. The Department will follow suit and will not waiver the \$11.00 .

Now that our organization has opened our eligibility to allow male spouses, many of which are veterans themselves, we feel that it is best to retire this program as to not exclude any veteran. In addition, the renewal rate of female veterans who joined through this program has diminished beyond our normal rate of renewals as well as fewer female veterans are joined through this program each year.

ALA MIS PROGRAM ACCESS for Units/District Membership

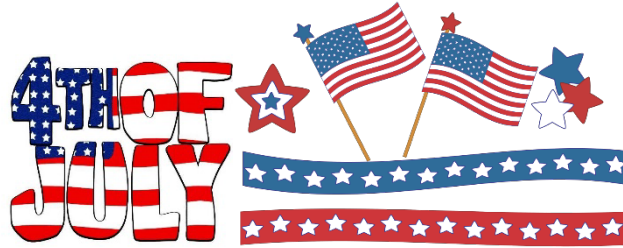
Monies are DUE into Dept when Access is Requested.

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.

THE DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA AMERICAN LEGION SALUTES AMERICA: The Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave



Take time to celebrate Independence Day on this 4th of July. Reflect on the freedoms and liberties that we have. Although the pandemic is forcing us to change our behaviors and the way we do business and our approach in conforming to a new normal, there is still reason to celebrate. Although many of our traditional celebrations (fireworks, parades and picnics) have been curtailed due to the COVID-19 outbreak, take time out this week to celebrate the founding of the United States of America.

The last few weeks have seen violent chaos rear its ugly head in many of our largest cities potentially threatening our freedoms. Benjamin Franklin said, "It is the first responsibility of every citizen to question authority." While peaceful and respectful marches and protests have a particularly important place in our traditions and history, domestic violence and domestic acts of terrorism are never acceptable. Be encouraged. America still stands. For this, too, shall pass. And we will Rise Up together.

KEEP THE FAITH IN OUR COUNTRY FOR WHICH ALL VETERANS SERVED
HAVE A Super Safe and enjoyable INDEPENDENCE DAY!

For God & Country ...

ZESTE C. DEBRO: THE ADJUTANT

"The Fourth of July-also known as Independence Day or July 4th-has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. On July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson.

From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues."

We as Legionnaires, stands by our heritage and dedicated to our principles of justice, peace and prosperity. As this Legion year comes to end, I want to thank you for your hard work and dedicated service. Congratulations to all our Awards Winners. We have survived this unusual time. As we continue to get to the other side to the new normal, we must continue supporting the principles of our Four Pillars, supporting Veterans, and our communities and families.

For God and Country... / / / EDDIE ASBERRY I I I Commander

Chaplain

Gloria Smith Fox

Heart Thoughts from the Chaplain - July 2020

I have been thinking about all the changes going on in our lives lately and it's hard to comprehend at times. At least for me and those around me. We've all had months of quarantine from others. Yeah it's been hard, but we need to see the good things that's happening around us as well. Our families are finding new ways of communicating and reuniting with each other. And it's become important in our lives to be compassionate to those who are being affected by the restrictions of COVID.

Continue to take care of yourselves, and be diligent about helping others as you've always done. The work is still there, just more of it. Though it's hard at times to be positive and upbeat, just remember it makes more wrinkles and headaches to worry and frown. And even with that mask on??? A big smile will shine thru your eyes and your laughter! Throwing out lots of air hugs and kisses!!

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."
1 Corinthians 15:58 KJV

Gloria Smith Fox
Dept. of GA AUX Chaplain

Good Afternoon American Legion Family:

Attached is the registration form and the hotel reservation form for the Georgia Department Fall Conference 2020. Yes, the Conference is being planned and coordination is ongoing. Please note the deadline date for this event (Friday, August 14, 2020). While the Department Leadership is well aware of the current Corona Virus pandemic and various executive orders, you can be assured that the Department of Georgia is operating with an abundance of caution and will make every effort to comply with state and local mandates.

Therefore, this registration/reservation form is quite important. Returning this form by the deadline date will enable the Department to use your responses to access interest and to get a projected number of attendees. These two pieces of information will further facilitate planning, course coordination, conference presentations, and other important decisions .

Given the global, national, state, and local responses to COVID-19, the Department of Georgia fully and truly recognizes that attendance is an independent, individual, and personal decision. We respect your decision.

District Commanders and Adjutants: Thank you for ensuring that this attachment is forwarded to your downtrace legion posts for further dissemination to their own members to render their own decision(s). Your cooperation is appreciated and your participation is welcomed and encouraged.



DEPARTMENT FALL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 16-18, 2020

HOTEL RESERVATION

Sonesta Gwinnett Place Atlanta (A **Non-Smoking** Hotel)
1775 Pleasant Hill Road, **Duluth**, GA 30096
770-923-1775

Guest Information:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City / State / Zip: _____
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Payment Information

Check enclosed: (payable to: **Sonesta Gwinnett Place Atlanta Hotel** for one-night deposit of \$117.00) **OR**

Guarantee by credit card: Visa MasterCard Amex Other

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____ MO/YR

(Credit card will not be billed until you have checked in; however, if you must cancel your reservation, **you** must personally contact the hotel within 72 hours of check-in or you will be charged).

Hotel Information:

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____ Number of People in Room: _____

Please Check One: King (one bed) \$117.00 Double: (two beds) \$117.00

****Price does not include taxes, fees, etc.***

Do you require a handicap accessible room? _____ Yes _____ No

Name(s) of other(s) sharing room: _____

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

DEADLINE: Friday, August 14, 2020

Banquet and Registration Form
DEPARTMENT FALL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 16-18, 2020: DULUTH, GA

SONESTA GWINNETT PLACE ATLANTA

Register **EARLY** to avoid the long lines and to **SAVE** money:

Pre-registration before August 14, 2020 <> \$10.00

Registration on or after August 14, 2020 <> \$20.00

The **Children and Youth Banquet** is Saturday, October 17th at 6:00 PM.

The cost of the Banquet is \$42.00.

For Registration and or Banquet, make checks or money orders payable to:

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA

Member Information (please print):

Name: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Post: _____ District: _____

Number Registering before AUG 14: _____ at \$10.00 per person: _____

Number Registering on/after AUG 14: _____ at \$20.00 per person: _____

Number attending C & Y Banquet: _____ at \$42.00 per person: _____

Reserved Tables are available for parties of 8 people: Names are required.

PRINT THE NAMES OF ALL GUESTS YOU ARE PAYING FOR:

-
- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ |
-

NOTE: Department Executive Committee (D.E. C.) Meeting will be Friday, October 16, 2020 at 6:00 PM and Sunday, October 18, 2020 after the Memorial Service.

Please complete and return this form via mail or fax to:

The American Legion, Department of Georgia
3035 Mt. Zion Road, Stockbridge, GA 30281
FAX: 678.289.8885

DEADLINE: Friday, August 14, 2020

Calendar of Upcoming Events 2020

July 4, 2020

Independence Day

July 26, 2020

Parents' Day



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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"

DEPARTMENT FALL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 16-18, 2020

HOTEL RESERVATION

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1775 Pleasant Hill Road, **Duluth**, GA 30096



American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Georgia
3035 Mt Zion Rd
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