





Department of Georgia Auxiliary News
February 2023: Volume 12, Issue 6



Pat Morgan, President – Department of Georgia

A Word from the President

February will be a busy month in the Department of Georgia.

Several Units are hosting “Four Chaplains Day” Ceremonies. If you have never attended one, I encourage you to do so. The Ceremony is moving and very informative. I encourage you to try to attend one in your area. Read more [here](#).

February 18 is the Department Leadership training. It is being hosted by Unit 3 in Macon. Please treat this like a team-building event and bring a few people from your unit. To ensure enough handouts and food are available, please RSVP as noted in First Vice President, Cheryl Jackson-Sinkler’s column on the next page. There is a fee of \$7 per person to cover the cost of Breakfast and Lunch.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Polar Plunge. The funds raised for me to get wet (and cold) will go to my Special Project – The Fort Gordon Fisher House; I will announce the amount raised at the Spring Conference. There was a huge turnout to plunge or watch and dinner that night was amazing and fun. I am looking forward to next year’s event.

Please welcome Unit 130, Folkston to our American Legion Auxiliary Family. I along with Department 2nd Vice President, Cheryl Waybright and District 8 President, Gloria Yarbrough presented the Unit its charter on January 16th. The members were raring to go and get started working ALA programs.

We are coming to that time of year when Units and Districts will be selecting their Nominating Committees for the 2023-2024 Officers. Consider stepping up to hold an officer position or chair a committee.

The Spring Conference will be held March 24--26, at the Sonesta Duluth Hotel. The Department Executive Committee meeting begins promptly at 6pm on the 23rd. We will begin the conference on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at 9:00 am.

All ALA members – including officers and committee chairs - are welcome and encouraged to attend. Registration is \$10 per person until February 28; after which, it will be \$30. (A form is included later in the newsletter.

The drawing for the ALA Department 50/50 raffle will be held on Saturday. Please be sure to turn in your raffle envelopes with the funds by Friday before the end of the session. If you have any questions, please contact me. This fundraiser will help benefit the general fund for the Department of Georgia ALA headquarters.

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President *(Continued)*

April 1 Deadline: As a reminder, all Units must submit Department Obligations before April 1, 2023. This form along with others are mandatory for Units to be certified at the Department Convention. If a Unit is not certified, its members are not eligible to vote.

ALA National President Vicki Koutz will visit April 1-5. Stay tuned for details. **SAVE THE DATE!**

Be sure to start gathering your information to prepare your annual reports. The Committee Chairpersons are excited to receive your reports so they can report to National the awesome things the ALA in GA is doing.

If I can be of assistance to you in any way, please feel free to contact me at pimorga@aol.com or 2229 Johnson Short Rd., Quitman, GA 31643 or at (229) 561-4070.

Pat

Secretary & Treasurer

Patty Hawkins

Welcome to February!

Now is the time of year that Units start preparing to fill out and submit forms and reports. It matters!

The first form is registration for attending the Department Spring Conference in March! See page 7.

The second form & payment due is the Department Obligations/Contributions Form (and payment) is due by April 1, 2023. Go to <https://www.aladepgga.com/forms-1> (sample on page 6). Online, the form is the last form at the bottom of the left column.

The third form to stay focused on is the Dues Rate Change 2024 Form due no later than May 1, 2023. Both National and the Department of Georgia voted in favor of dues increases that take effect July 1, 2023, when we begin our 2024 membership campaign. (Sample on page 6)

It is critical to note that many unit bylaws or standing rules **require the unit general membership vote on changes (increases) to unit membership dues.** Please plan accordingly, make sure your membership meets and votes so the unit can submit the form on time.

Unit Dues MUST be equal to or higher than \$34. National is \$18 and Department is \$16. As such, many

FEBRUARY IS AMERICANISM MONTH

Be sure to check out the ALA National Website and the ALA National Facebook group for ideas. **The Americanism Essay Contest deadline is approaching!** Reach out to Kristine Alexander, Chair Department of Georgia Americanism to address questions on the deadlines. (770.715.0332 or Krisann@windstream.net) <https://www.facebook.com/groups/alaamericanism>

GIRLS STATE REMINDERS

****FEE: \$350 PER GIRL.** Units to submit **before April 20, 2023.** Units should be raising funds now and reaching out to schools to invite girls to apply.

COUNSELORS: Each **District** must pay a fee of \$350 for one counselor.

APPLICATIONS: The 2023 application will be available on the website on February 25, 2023; due date is May 10, 2023. . www.georgiagirlsstate.org.

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

units have selected \$40, \$45, or \$50 so the units can keep \$6, \$11, or \$16 for membership use, respectively.

Note – Junior National and Department dues each remain at \$2.50 (\$5 total). Evaluate and make changes as determined by the unit general membership.

Other forms on this website page are being updated with the expectation they will be ready by February 3rd. Your Unit officers and committee chairs should be visiting this page frequently to ensure your Unit doesn't miss a date! **PLEASE DELETE ANY VERSION OF OLD FORMS YOU MAY HAVE.** All reports need to be prepared and submitted on the CURRENT FORMS at our website.

The Poppy Anchor Launch is on Memorial Day, May 29. All are welcome. Remember, this is a Department effort. While 2nd District

is preparing the 2023 anchor, all Units, Posts, Districts, and individuals should consider donating funds or poppies. Remember, the anchor building is done by a different district every year. Together we all achieve more! Please reach out to me to donate.

Patty Hawkins

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



1st Vice President/Leadership

Cheryl Jackson Sinkler

IT STARTS WITH YOU!

As a Leadership Chair for your Unit, we must be consistent in teaching protocol. I have received many calls regarding members not following the Unit Constitution & Bylaws & Standing rules. I suggest at each meeting, go over your Unit Constitution & Bylaws & Standing Rules to ensure members are well versed of what is required as a member. **We should all be familiar with our governing documents.**



Conflicts arise when members are doing what they want, instead of following policy and procedures. If you have consistently covered your governing documents and continue to have issues, first, meet with the individual and come together to create a resolution. Make every effort to resolve conflict within the Unit.

We are losing members not because of dues, programs, or serving our Veterans. It is because of all the bickering that is going on within the Unit. There must be a resolve for these behaviors, or we will lose many more members. Focus on why you joined and let's do our very best to represent the organization.

KEEP IN MIND YOU NEVER KNOW WHO IS WATCHING US!

Friendly reminders:

Leadership Training will be held at **Unit 3 in Macon** on February 18, 2023. The address is: **American Legion Post 3, Joseph N. Neel Jr, 5530 Thomaston Road, Macon, GA 31220**. If you need directions, please call 478-474-7799 or Delores Bumgardner at 478-731-7006. Please arrive between 9:15 am – 9:45 am for registration. Training will start promptly at 10:00 am and end at 4:00 pm. A continental breakfast and lunch will be served at a cost of \$7.00 per person.

Don't forget – the due date for Unit and District Yearbooks is February 15th. Each unit and district are encouraged to prepare one. Units should submit to both the Department (to my attention) and to their District Leadership Chairperson. These are great tools for your units and districts to communicate leader information, key dates, and other essential information.

Cheryl Jackson-Sinkler

1st Vice President – Leadership, Department of Georgia
770-875-5987 ★ cheryl.jackson0808@outlook.com

2nd Vice President/Membership

Cheryl Waybright

Membership is everyone's responsibility!

Be sure to check your unit rosters in ALAMIS. In some quick compliance spot checks, we have found members listed as officers in units and districts (as recorded in ALAMIS) have not paid their 2023 dues. *Oh no!*

Do not rely on one person manage membership – it's a team effort! All officers and the membership chair should be collaboratively 1) confirming all officers and 2) unit life members are paid through 12/31/2023 AND the big one, 3) **develop a plan** together on how to best reach out to those members that expired on 12/31/22 and ask that they renew. 4) Also take action to invite those that expired on 12/31/21 and 12/31/20 to rejoin. If they don't renew or rejoin, find out why!

This is the perfect opportunity for leadership teams to collaborate in the effort to re-engage members to serve our mission.



Spotlight on our new Unit! Unit 130, Folkston GA received its charter on January 16th. See the photo in the President's column.

Shout out to all our units and districts that are really pushing their cars forward. Each week, all Department officers, committee chairs and District Presidents receive a detailed membership report containing information from the National and Department Membership Chairs – all with tips to recruit, renew, rejoin, and re-engage our members.

Communication is critical to grow our service, support our mission and retain and recruit members. All Department and Unit Presidents – please be sure your unit leaders and members are receiving all membership communications from the Department.

What? No Race Cars this month? Yep, that's right. We are about to wrap week 22 of our membership push – and lap 22 around the track headed to National President's Victory Lane. If you want to see what's shaking (hopefully not the wheels) in your Unit or District, ask your District and Unit Presidents to share the weekly membership reports – every week! Past editions can be downloaded from [HERE](#). **Go for it.**

Cheryl Waybright

2nd Vice President & Membership
404-625-6708 ★ CLWaybright@gmail.com

Historian

Gail Ramey



I hope all of you are having a good year at your Units and working on projects.

Please record all that you do. It's very important not only for you Unit's future members to see what has been accomplished but it's great to share your accomplishments with other Units throughout your District and the Department.

Your History Reports are due to your District Historians and to me by May 1st. Your History Books are due to your District chairperson by May 1st. Remember, units that place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in the District may submit their Books to me for consideration at the Department level – no later than June 1st. You can find the History Book Rules and Annual History Report/Cavalcade of Memories form at www.aladepg.com. Place your mouse on **Member Resources** and click on **Forms**. Scroll down the list to Historian Annual Report and History Senior & Junior Rules.

If anyone needs help, please feel free to contact me at 770-262-2524 or gailramey@msn.com.

Gail Ramey

Historian, Department of Georgia

770-262-2524 ★ gailramey@msn.com

Chaplain

Pamela Stroud

Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy (2Timothy 4:7), basically keep the faith.

What does it look like to finish strong?

Who has been an example of finishing well?

Prayer: God I want to finish well. Help me to love you more than anything or anyone else.

As we have started this new year, let's remember that Jesus stands eager to crown all who've loved him and may we live to finish strong.

February is AMERICAN LEGION AMERICANISM MONTH

Let us remember to submit all prayer books and reports by May 1, 2023.

Keep these dates in mind:

2/5..... Four Chaplain's Sunday

2/18..... ALA Department Leadership Training in Macon –
Everyone is a leader!

Stay Prayerful and Blessed

Pam Stroud

Chaplain, Department of Georgia

706-326-4861 ★ pstroud9@icloud.com

Mission Development

Mission Development training held in Nashville on January 28, 2023. It was exceptionally informative. Seven members of the Department attended. If anyone is interested in seeing what was presented, the slide decks can be found [here](#). If your unit is having trouble engaging on our four core areas (VA&R, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth), the decks contain useful tips to get it going.

Other tools include the ALA website (log-in first) and National ALA Facebook groups (*you must join, have your ALA member ID number ready*) for more ideas. See the write up by 5th District PR chair Amy Loudermilk [here](#).

Oh! Don't forget the Department of Georgia Leadership Training on February 18th – BE THERE for networking, making new friends & learning best practices for supporting the mission and running your units and districts.

Pictured right, left to right are: GA Dept. President Pat Morgan; National Southern Division Vice President Linda Smiley; National VA&R Chair Trish Ward; GA Dept. NEC Committee Member, Susan Hall; 5th District PR and VA&R Chair, Amy Loudermilk; 5th District 2nd VP & Membership Chair, Barbara McGee; Unit 258 Jonesboro 2nd VP & Membership Chair, Lindsey Coats; GA Dept. Historian & AEF Chair, Gail Ramey; GA Dept. 2nd VP, Membership & Unit Revitalization Chair, Cheryl Waybright.



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 a proactive 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.

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



IMPACT REPORTING RESOURCES AVAILABLE ON MYAUXILIARY

National Headquarters has made it easy for members by providing both a monthly tracking spreadsheet/form and the Year-End Impact Numbers Report form. Download them both for free by logging on to MyAuxiliary at www.ALAforVeterans.org, select “Forms” from the top menu, and scroll down to “Impact Forms.” From there, you’ll see an instruction page, as well as an FAQ page to provide guidance on how to record your service. Forms for the member, unit, district/county/council, and department are included.

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Remittance for the following 2022- 2023 Department Obligations/Contributions

This form is for your convenience when sending checks into Department Headquarters. Please make Copies for further use. Make checks payable to ALA Dept. of GA. **DO NOT COMBINE WITH MEMBERSHIP CHECK!**

Please Send One Check for these Obligations/ Contributions

Mandatory Obligations ***DUE BY APRIL 1st***(voted on June 2021 Convention)	Amount
Bond Income (mandatory obligation) \$10.00	\$
Book of Reports (mandatory obligation) \$15.00 each	\$
Junior Funds (voted on Dept Convention June 2015) \$5.00	\$
Comfort Articles (suggested minimum amount \$25.00)	\$
Hostess Party (if no funds are sent into department, Unit must provide verification to us as to when & where party was held in order to get credit) minimum \$25.00	\$
Poppy Orders	
1000 poppies @ \$150.00	\$
500 poppies @ \$ 75.00 (minimum order)	
250 poppies @ \$ 37.50 (minimum order fo)	

Due to the Department: 25% of your net Poppy Proceeds. P
 *November distribution proceeds are due into the Department
 *May distribution proceeds are due into the Department by Ju
 ***If you distribute both months send the proceeds by dues da
 *** Please use the Poppy Financial Report

The following will be billed separately: Christmas

- Contributions
- Auxiliary Emergency Fund
- Creative Arts Festival
- Headquarters Fund Raiser
- President's Special Project
- Past Presidents Parley Nursing Scholarships

All other contributions shoul

Date _____ Enclosed is CK # _____
 If more than one check enclosed: CK # _____ AMT \$ _____
 Unit: _____ District _____ Town _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Email _____



Left, this is what the Department Obligations/Contributions Form looks like. The form and payment is due to the Department no later than April 1, 2023.. The form can be found at <https://www.aladdeptga.com/forms-1> - it is the last form at the bottom of the left column.

2024 DUES RATE CHANGE

In the 2024 Membership Year the Amount of Dues that is due to The Department of Georgia will be **\$34.00 for Senior Membership**. The rate of **\$5.00 for Junior Membership**. This will cover the cost for the National Dues as well as the Department of Georgia Dues. **PLEASE NOTE THE INCREASE THAT IS DUE TO DEPARTMENT!!**
 We are now accepting all Dues rate changes for the amount that will be listed on your Dues Renewal notices that are sent from National to your members letting them know it is now time to pay your 2024 Membership dues and what amount they should be paying. **THIS FORM IS MANDATORY TO RETURN BY THE DUE DATE!!!!**
 If your Unit intends to make any changes to the current rates they are currently charging we need to be receiving those now, so that the changes can be made in our system and Units will not experience wrong information being sent to their members. It is very important that your Unit evaluates the amounts they are currently charging and make the necessary adjustments ASAP. This form needs to be returned to the Department **NO later than May 1st, 2023** so that all changes can be processed. If this form is not received your Unit Dues may be listed incorrectly on the notices sent to your Members for their Renewals. All incorrect amounts that may be listed due to not receiving this form will be the fault of the Unit, not the Department or National. **The amount of \$34 per Senior & \$5.00 per Junior will still be due to the Department, regardless of what amount is listed on the renewal Notice.**

PLEASE LIST THE EXACT AMOUNT OF DUES YOUR UNIT CHARGES PER MEMBER FOR DUES. List your Unit amount on the blank line then add all 3 lines together for the total amount due. FORM IS MANDATORY TO BE RETURNED!

UNIT NUMBER: _____ DISTRICT: _____
 2024 Dues Senior Member \$18.00 Natl + \$16.00 Dept + \$ _____ Unit = Total Due \$ _____
 2024 Dues Junior Member \$2.50 Natl + \$2.50 Dept + \$ _____ Unit = Total Due \$ _____

Signature of Person Authorizing _____ Title _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Date _____
 NOTE: We need the per member amount. Please list the amount your Unit keeps from the members' dues on the blank line by Unit. Then add all 3 totals together to give a Total due per member!!!

Right – this is what the Dues Rate Change 2024 Form looks like. The form is due to the Department no later than May 1, 2023. The form can be found near the bottom of the left column under the heading MEMBERSHIP FORMS. The link: <https://www.aladdeptga.com/forms-1> Don't forget, your unit may need to vote before setting the Unit Dues and submitting this form.





DEPARTMENT **SPRING CONFERENCE - DULUTH** March 24.25.26. 2023

REGISTRATION & RESERVATION

Sonesta Gwinnett Place Atlanta / / / 770-923-1775
1775 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth, GA 30096

Mail to: The American Legion, Dept of GA 3035 Mt. Zion Road, Stockbridge, GA 30281 (fax) 678-289-8885

REGISTRATION: () \$10 **until February 28, 2023; Afterwards** \$30 () **BANQUET:** ()

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

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA

D.E.C. meets Thursday, 23 Mar 2023. **Banquet** is Saturday at 6:00 PM. A Banquet ticket is \$45.00.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Post/Unit/Squadron/Chapter: _____ E-mail: _____

Payment Info for this non-smoking hotel reservation: **NOTE: Room reservations will end March 10, 2023.**

Make Check payable to: **Sonesta Gwinnett Place Atlanta Hotel** for one-night deposit of \$110.00) 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 cancel your reservation, you must personally contact the hotel within 72 hours of check-in or you will be charged).

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

Check One: () 1-King: \$110.00 () 2-Queens: \$110.00 **Price does not include taxes, fees, etc.**

Handicap accessible room? () Yes () No //// Name(s) of other(s) sharing room: _____

PRINT THE NAMES OF ALL GUESTS YOU ARE PAYING FOR: Reserved Tables (parties of 10 guests)

Number attending Banquet: _____ at \$45.00 per person: _____



National President’s Theme:
Honoring our Veterans Everyday

Department Themes:

President:
Growing our Future in Georgia

1st Vice President (Leadership):
The Future being Built on Our Family

2nd Vice President (Membership):
Membership Theme:
Growing our Future through Membership **Engagement**

Upcoming Events & Dates to Note

FEBRUARY is AMERICAN LEGION AMERICANISM MONTH

- 2/1..... National Freedom Day
- 2/2..... Army Nurse Corp Established (1901)/Groundhog Day
- 2/3..... USO Incorporated
- 2/3..... Four Chaplains Day
- 2/3..... USO Incorporated
- 2/5 Four Chaplains Sunday
- 2/13..... Marine Corps Women’s Reserve Established (1943)
- 2/15 Yearbooks DUE TO DEPARTMENT FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
- 2/18 ALA Department Leadership Training in Macon – Everyone is a leader!
- 2/20..... President’s Day / Coast Guard Reserve Birthday
- 2/23..... Iwo Jima Flag Raising (1945)
- 2/27..... Persian Gulf Cease-Fire Day (1991)
- March TBD - AMERICANISM ESSAY DUE TO DEPARTMENT.
- MARCH 24 – 26, 2023 – SPRING CONFERENCE (Registration Due 2/28)
- APRIL is AMERICAN LEGION CHILDREN & YOUTH MONTH
- April 1 – 5, 2023 - ALA National President Visit
- 4/20..... Girls State Forms and Payments due from Units
- 5/26 – National Poppy Day
- 5/29 – Department of Georgia Poppy Anchor Launch, Tybee Island.



American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Georgia
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