

Department of Georgia Auxiliary News
October 2023: Volume 13, Issue 1



Cheryl Jackson Sinkler
President 2023-2024
Department of Georgia



Inside this Issue:

A Word from the President Pg. 1
 Leadership Pg. 2
 Secretary/Treasurer Pg. 3
 Obligations & Conference Pg. 3
 National Mission Training Pg. 3
 Membership..... Pg. 3
 Historian Pg. 4
 Chaplain Pg. 4
 The Brand, It Matters..... Pg. 5
 Polar Plunge 2024 Pg. 5
 The Reason We Report Pg. 5
 Upcoming Events/Dates to Note..... Pg. 6

A Word from the President

SUPPORTING THE FOUNDATION OF OUR VETERANS

Hello my fellow members,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your 2023-2024 Department of Georgia President. I’m looking forward to a great year. My President theme for the year is *“Supporting The Foundation Of Our Veterans”*. My President project is to raise monies for *“Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation and Girls State”*. Current fundraisers are under way, and I must say our District Presidents are showing out. I can’t wait to see who made the most money for these great causes. I am also donating to the Commanders Project and ALA Department of Georgia, Headquarters general fund. The Quilt and Polar Plunge fundraiser are earmarked for these projects. **SALE, SALE, SALE!!**

It has been a busy 3 months for us all. July, August, and September were the months for installations and starting your Unit year. I had the privilege of installing many Units and a District. I was able to greet many of our veterans and families as I traveled to each Post for installation. Some new and some I had the pleasure to fellowship with once again. Another goal for me is visit as many Units as possible. Purple Heart Day was observed throughout Georgia on August 7. The purpose of Purple Heart Day is to express our gratitude to the sons and daughters of our communities who were either wounded or killed in combat defending the freedoms enjoyed by all. Patriot Day, September 11, gives all of us the opportunity to reflect on the devastating terror attacks that took the lives of almost 3000 innocent people. We remember those we lost and give thanks and honor to the brave first responders who put their lives on the line. We also take a moment to reflect on what we stand for as a nation and how as Auxiliary members we can make a difference. POW/MIA Recognition Day is September 15, the purpose of the day is to ensure that Americans remember to stand behind those who serve and to do everything we can do to account for those who have never returned.

As I transition into the new administration year many innovative ideas are being implemented. The lack of Policies has been an issue when conducting business and we found there are none. To ensure we are following guidelines and procedures we are writing policies for many of the positions and procedures we are to follow. By doing so, it will ensure we are operating according to our governing documents. The Finance Committee is working directly with me to ensure that we have a financial report that is concise and available to view in a timely manner. Our Public Relations committee is working to ensure that our Department website is user-friendly. They are also updating our Department Facebook page.

Continued, next page.

A Word from the President *(continued)*

These committee members are working diligently together to make sure the members can access documents as needed.

One of my goals this year is to meet with Department and District Officers monthly. I feel communication is key when trying to ensure that everyone is heard and receives follow up with questions and concerns. I am asking each District President to visit their Units. Being assessable and members knowing who their key contacts are. Lending a helping hand and educating members is a must in this organization. Remember our slogan “In The Spirit Of Service Not Self. Unit practices must be in the line of the Department and National organization. Promote membership to increase awareness of our organization. When recruiting, detail our programs and lead a potential member away from the stigma we are a social club. We are not a social club we are a service organization. The Auxiliary is designed to help with working the programs of our Organization. Assist our Veterans, their families and community.

The National Convention was held in Charlotte, NC. National voted to change the Constitution and bylaws by adding to the existing policy of having 10 senior members to charter a Unit. However, it will be up to the Department to decide on how many members Units will require to keep a Unit from being closed. This will be discussed at the October Fall Conference being held at Sonesta Gwinnett Place Hotel, October 26-29, 2023.

Lastly, ALA National President, Lisa Williamson of Alaska is visiting Georgia. Lisa Williamson will arrive Thursday, October 26, 2023. For those who arrive at the Sonesta Gwinnett Place Hotel on Thursday. Please come to the lobby and greet her. I will have a banner welcoming her to Georgia. I have asked District Presidents to send correspondence to let each Unit in their District to request monetary donations in lieu of gifts for her special project which is the Spirit of Youth Scholarship. This is at the National Presidents’ request.

Thank you ALL for what you do for our Veterans, their families, and the community. Without your service as volunteers, we could not be the greatest organization there is.

God bless you ALL,

Cheryl Jackson-Sinkler

President, Department of Georgia - 2023 – 2024

(770) 875-5987 cheryl.jackson0808@outlook.com

First Vice President Leadership & Yearbook

Cheryl Waybright

Greetings Georgia ALA!

Thank you for electing me to serve you this year. We

are AMPING UP! Leadership by creating an environment of learning to lead – together. **Our goals** are to:

- Focus relentlessly on the mission of the ALA.
- Align efforts around The American Legion Four Pillars.
- Increase knowledge and elevate leader abilities.
- Leverage creativity and motivation of all members.

The **monthly cadence** began in July, and we will stick to that schedule throughout the year, mostly.

- 1st Tuesday - **Tuesday Topics**– EMAIL Leads & Links
- 2nd Tuesday - **Tune-In Tuesday** – Zoom 7-8 pm
- 3rd Tuesday - **Tuesday Tidbits** EMAIL
- 4th Tuesday - **Tune-UP! Tuesday** – Zoom 12-12:30 pm

Leadership Learning Labs are happening around Georgia! We are partnering districts and picking sites as convenient as possible for those districts – **ALL are welcome to attend all Labs**. Registration in advance is required and it’s not free – remember you get what you pay for. If you pay nothing, what do you get? Don’t miss the deadlines.

As you register, you will help shape the agenda - it will be based on what YOU the attendee identify you want to cover when you register. The **BIG ASK** is that if you attend, you return to your unit (or district) and proactively share what you learned. While attending Labs or virtual sessions, I insist that we all share helpful information related to the month’s focus or topic of discussion. This means sharing the good and the bad - to allow others to learn – **we are in this together and when we lift-up everyone, we all achieve more**. Share, listen, learn, apply.

Leadership Labs will be announced as details are confirmed. We will do a speed learning lab at the fall conference on Saturday afternoon – high energy, huge benefit. Don’t miss it. **An amazing trait of strong leaders is flexibility. Be like Gumby!!!!**

I have an open door policy for all things leadership, and I welcome questions from all members and unit leaders by email, text and phone about Leadership and any content I distribute. In July we provided the protocols for resolving issues. I ask that you follow that protocol instead of contacting me about any issues unless you are one of my three District Presidents for which I am a liaison for. Embrace our protocols – we will all achieve much more!

UT PROSIM!

Cheryl Waybright
404-625-6708



cwaybright@gmail.com

Secretary & Treasurer

Patty Hawkins

Fall Conference is coming up! The early bird date to register for the conference was September 29th – but it is not too late – please register ASAP for the conference and the banquet. The form is available on the department website.



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

There is an error on the form for the hotel reservations. You must call the hotel directly to make your reservations and use this code - 10262023



You may call this number - 770-923-1775 to make your reservations.

We hope to see you there! National President Lisa Williamson will be joining us – be sure to come meet this amazing woman who is leading our organization!



OBLIGATIONS: The 2023-2024 obligations form is pictured to the right and can be found at <https://www.aladdeptga.com/forms-1>. While the form says the obligations are due April 1, the Department asks that units take a moment and do their best to submit both the mandatory and the voluntary obligations as soon as possible. This helps the department distribute funds to the VA&R program for hostess parties and comfort items before the holidays.

Annual Report Forms: We are updating the annual report forms with the correct names and addresses and will post them by the end of November.

Newsletter: We will distribute newsletters quarterly – 10/1/23, 1/1/24, 4/1/24, and 6/1/24. If you have information you would like to see in the newsletter, please let me know. Stay tuned to January 1 – Have a wonderful fall and Holiday season. Please get in your obligations, do your best supporting our veterans, and always enjoy time with your family and friends. Stay safe 😊

Patty Hawkins

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

Second Vice President - Membership

Gail Ramey

Hello from the Second Vice President and Membership chair. I am happy to report we already have one Goal Unit! **Dalton, Unit 112 reached goal 9-7-23.** Let's all do our best to make sure we do not have units at zero – we all need to be renewing and recruiting.

Please get your membership sent in as soon as possible so we can get our numbers up.

As of the National membership report dated 9-27-23, Georgia is fifth place in the Southern Division and tenth in the nation! I am confident we will make strides together to reach higher! **Let's MAKE goal ASAP!**

The Southern Division is still leading the nation, which is great. Let's all keep up the amazing effort by our membership team leaders – help them get those memberships sent in.

Remember – Our theme for membership nationally is **Mushing for Membership.**



Thank you for all you do.


Gail Ramey

2nd Vice President – Membership, Department of Georgia
770-262-2524 ★ gailramey@msn.com

Register for National Mission Training.

<https://www.legion-aux.org/meetings/mission-training/>
2/3/2024 Nashville, TN at the Hilton Nashville Airport
#MissionDriven – come learn more about working the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary

Department Obligation Form – Fill it out and turn it in with payment as soon as possible – don't forget the voluntary section!!


American Legion Auxiliary
 Department of Georgia
 3035 Mt. Zion Rd.
 Stockbridge, GA 30281-4101
 Tel: 678-289-4146 secamlegaux@bellsouth.net www.aladdeptga.com
 Remittance for the following 2023-2024
 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 CHECKS!**

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 (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 for Units with 50 members or less) | \$ |
| TOTAL: | |

Historian

Pam Eckler

HISTORY

“History is who we are and why we are the way we are.” David McCullough, American Historian

We are the Georgia American Legion Auxiliary! We are an organization devoted to the service of others not self, and we achieve this mission through all the wonderful things we do at our post, and in our communities. So, why is it so difficult, yet so very important, to record our Units’ and Districts’ histories?

Some of you have said it takes a lot of time, and that can be true. Others have said, our history is so bad why should we record it? The answer is simple, if we don’t record the bad, we will keep repeating the same mistakes. If we record the good, we are helping other units with ideas and we are showing our pride in what we have accomplished.

I know many of you have jobs, maybe several, but you volunteered to do what you do for your Unit. This means you have an obligation to do what you do best, share your history. If you are new to being your Unit’s Historian, I highly suggest going to our department’s website and looking at the information regarding the recording of your history. Go to www.aladepg.com/forms. You will see the form you need to complete along with the rules for completing the form or your Historian book. Along with understanding your role, you can get helpful tips, tricks, and ideas from our National Department’s Facebook group. You must be a Unit, District or Department Historian to join this informative group. From your browser enter: www.facebook.com/groups/ALAHistorians.

Finally, we have created a Facebook group for our Georgia Unit and District Historians. From your browser enter: www.facebook.com/groups/georgiahistorians. I look forward to seeing all your posts, and as a former Southern Division Chairman for Public Relations, I can tell you the new Southern Division Chairman will be looking as well.

I hope to see many of you at the National Convention in August, and just as importantly, our Department Conference in October.

Pam Eckler, Historian
Department of Georgia

670-780-8622

pjeckler@gmail.com

Chaplain’s Corner

Sabrina Putney

“Brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.” 1 Corinthians 13:11.

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your 2023-2024 Department Chaplain.

My prayer is for revitalization and restoration. As we have suffered a great loss in the homegoing of our dear Sis. Marjorie Slaughter who was funeralized on July 15th. It is important to keep our minds on being a legion family. When one hurts, we all do.

Always pray for the Legion Family. I would like to be effective in our spiritual bond, to do this communication will be the key to our success.

Together We Can!

I am claiming 2023-2024 as our year of revitalization. Are you ready? Let’s do this! It is so easy ...Just be kind. Treat others the way you would like to be treated.

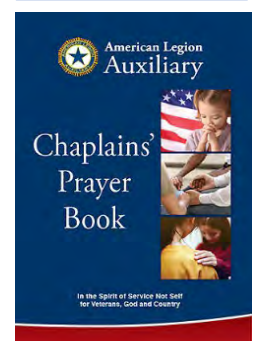
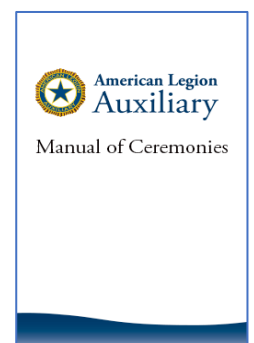
Congratulations to all 2023 2023 officers. May your upcoming year be blessed with unity, restoration, revitalization, and peace. United we stand divided we fall.

I am only a phone call away. (912) 272-1745.

Please keep our Past Department President Pat Morgan who lost her husband and our membership Clerk Krista Massengale in your prayers, she lost her brother in September as well.

Please continue to grow your units in unity and peace “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:3. I look forward to an exciting year full of increase and unity. Remember to pray for all veterans, active military, and their families as well as all American Legion Family. Remember their children as well while we support the foundation of our veterans.

Sabrina Brown-Putney
Chaplain, Department of Georgia
(912) 272-1745
sabrinaputney@yahoo.com



The Brand: It Matters

So, What is What?

The Emblem of the American Legion Auxiliary (above) should be reserved for official, legal, and historical uses. Documents and communications such as history books, manuals, guides, reports, resolutions, minutes, financial documents and building signage are examples.



“The American Legion Auxiliary brand mark (pictured right) was created to address the need to modernize the ALA brand to appeal to the next generation. The new brand mark takes into consideration a host of applications that the original emblem could never have anticipated. Those include digital and social media, special event and sports marketing, lifestyle apparel and more.”



Going forward, the brand mark is to be used in all marketing communications applications. “When choosing a brand mark option, default to what is most visually pleasing in that application. For example, the word mark (right) should almost always be used in embroidery.”



For more in-depth explanations of approved usage guidelines, go here <https://www.legion.org/brand/aux>. You can download the full branding guidelines at: http://woodwing.legion.org:8080/?w=W_1mmzVvLN

2024 SAL Polar Plunge - Retreat



OPEN TO ALL LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS

January 11 – 16, 2024 at Tybee Island – Hotel Tybee

Deadline for reservations is December 31, 2023.

DO IT NOW!!! Contact Hotel Tybee’s front desk at 1-912-786-7777 - say you are with The Sons of The American Legion to get the discount. To find out more information, check in with our Georgia NEC member Susan Hall. suem_66@yahoo.com

Friday Jan 12: Guests arrive and tour Savannah, Supper 6 PM at Post 500 Savannah

Saturday: Jan 13: Classes 8AM-2 PM Post 184 Thunderbolt; Polar Bear Plunge ~ 3 PM Tybee beach and Supper 6 PM – Post 135 Savannah

Sunday: Jan 14: SAL programs & protocol training.

Hotel pricing: Prices are good for any of these nights:
 01/11 (Thursday) thru check out on Tuesday 1/16:
 Ocean view: \$115.00 + taxes (\$131.10)
 Semi ocean view: \$109.00 + taxes (\$129.26)
 No ocean view: \$99.00 + taxes (\$117.86)

The Reason we Report, Tips & Tricks

“Every hour and dollar ALA members invest in our mission of helping veterans adds up.” Service not only “gives each member a sense of pride in belonging to the organization, but it allows the ALA to **demonstrate our mission service and effectiveness to our donors and to the world.**” This service and money spent by individuals is reported in IMPACT REPORTS to each unit. The units then report to the districts and departments. Departments combine the numbers and report to National Headquarters which then compiles and reports to The American Legion which includes the data in its annual report to Congress.

Members should report EVERY MONTH, preferably using the ALA impact report form – it’s simple to use and has recently been streamlined. Since we no longer “do” mid-year reports, waiting until the end of the year makes the process a burden and cumbersome – and people forget things, remarkable things, they did so many efforts go unreported.

Let’s make our reporting for 2022-2023 a priority.



| | |
|---|-------|
| NUMBER OF AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENTS | 52 |
| PERCENTAGE OF DEPARTMENTS REPORTING | 94% |
| NUMBER OF UNITS | 2,708 |
| PERCENTAGE OF UNITS REPORTING | 82% |
| AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF MEMBERS REPORTING | 9% |

Members and units that report typically have stronger relationships within units and with that, solid service within the four pillars of our mission – VA&R, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth.

A common question is “Can I count hours spent preparing meals for Legion meetings and administrative support for TAL commanders as hours spent in Service to Veterans?” **The Answer is “Yes!** Those hours count but should be reported under “Section 4: My Service Representing the ALA in My Community.”

Some of our members aptly describe those activities as family chores.” Remember too, individuals serving in volunteer roles at all levels should record hours and money spent on their individual impact reports in this same area – yes, “family chores” matter.



Upcoming Events & Dates to Note

OCTOBER 2023

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

10/3Amp Up! Leadership - Tuesday Topics– Email Leads & Links

10/9..... Columbus Day

10/10Amp Up! Leadership -Tune-In Tuesday 7-8pm (zoom)

10/13.... Navy Birthday

10/14Leadership Learning Lab Register <https://forms.gle/5o7XJER7xBfka6Qp6>

10/24Amp Up! Leadership - Tune-UP! Tuesday – (noon zoom)

10/26.... National Day of the Deployed

10/27.... [Navy Day](#) (click the link to learn more)

10/26-29 National President’s Visit to Georgia

10/27-29 Department of Georgia Fall Conference, Duluth GA

10/31.... Halloween

NOVEMBER 2023

National Veterans & Military Family Month

11/5..... Daylight Saving Time ends

11/10.... Marine Corps Birthday

11/11Veterans Day (Armistice Day, France & Remembrance Day, Britain & Canada)

11/23Thanksgiving Day

National President’s Theme:

Be The One

President Theme:

Supporting the Foundation of our Veterans

Leadership Theme:

Mission Matters: Amp Up! Leadership

Membership Theme:

Supporting Veterans Begins With Membership



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

