

A Word from the President

Pat Morgan, President – Department of Georgia

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HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope all had a wonderful and blessed Holiday Season!

As we start this new year let’s make a New Year’s Resolution in 2023 to continue to do all the good things that were accomplished in 2022. I was so proud of each and every one of the Units and members who took the time out of their busy lives to help other members, veterans and their families, and their communities. This is what the American Legion Auxiliary is all about – Service not Self! We have a busy first quarter with these events:

January: On January 14 year I take the “PLUNGE” along with the Georgia Auxiliary NEC Susan Hall and PDP Anita Owens as well as other Auxiliary members, Legionnaires, SAL members and perhaps ALR members. This is the Georgia Sons of the American Legion’s Annual Polar Plunge – it is an exciting, fun, and fundraising event at Tybee Island. **Please send donations to The ALA Department of Georgia designated “Polar Plunge Challenge.”** Units, Districts, and Individuals can donate to this challenge and are encouraged to do so – every dollar goes to supporting veterans.

January 28th is a Mission Conference instructed by ALA National Officers and Chairpersons and will be held in Nashville, TN. As you see January is very busy along with the Unit and District meetings to be held.

February 18th: is our **Department Leadership Training** session being held at Unit 3 in Macon from 10am (register by 9:45) until 4pm. Please make every effort to attend. The knowledge sharing and networking are critical to our success.

March 24 – 26 will be the Spring Conference. The DEC will meet on the 23rd at 6pm. The drawing for the 50/50 will be on Saturday. Please be sure to turn in your small 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 Auxiliary headquarters.

April: ALA National President Vicki Koutz will visit. Details are being developed but please mark your calendars for April 1-5. Hopefully, you can join us for all, some, or even just one of the fun and rewarding events with our National President.

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 work Georgia does.

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

*“Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I’ll understand”
--Ben Franklin*

Secretary & Treasurer

Patty Hawkins



I hope everyone had a fantastic holiday season. I have just a few updates.

At our Fall Conference in October, our Chair of Constitution & Bylaws noted we have updates to our Constitution & Bylaws based on changes by National. These are now posted on our website - <https://www.aladeptha.com/>. Click on the Leadership tab to get to the link for the file.

Report forms and the Recognition and Awards materials are being updated. Please check the website under Member Resources, Forms. It is never too late to begin collecting data for your reports.

Unit Activity Books are available. They are \$5.00 each plus a \$1.00 fee for mailing.

I encourage everyone to attend the leadership training that First Vice President Cheryl Jackson-Sinkler is coordinating on February 18th. If one person from every unit could attend, just think about the amazing things our Department can do with trained leaders/members!

Seriously, it is time to register for the Spring Conference. See the registration form on Page 5. Please print, complete, and mail it in with your registration fees per the directions on the form. **The due date is February 28** for the early bird rate of \$10. After that, the fee is \$30 per person.

Patty Hawkins

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

1st Vice President/Leadership

Cheryl Jackson Sinkler



Greetings everyone, I hope everyone had a great holiday season.

I want to remind everyone of the **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. Please arrive between 9:15am – 9:45am for registration. Training will start promptly at 10:00am and end at 4:00pm. **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.

We must be aware of how we treat each other within the organization. We are all VOLUNTEERING, and ALL our time is precious. When you take on a responsibility, you should always put your best foot forward.

I enjoy all of you and try my best to make my rounds just to touch base with each of you.

Cheryl Jackson-Sinkler

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

GIRLS STATE REMINDERS

****FEE: \$350 PER GIRL.** Checks must be made payable and mailed to Girls State, c/o ALA Department of GA, 3035 Mt. Zion Road, Stockbridge, GA 30281 **before April 20, 2023**. Call the Director for late payments of fees. 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 whether a counselor from the District attends or not. Please notify the Director upon the election and have the counselor send a resume to the Director.

APPLICATIONS: The 2023 application will be available on the website on February 25, 2023. www.georgiagirlsstate.org. Applications need to be complete by May 10, 2023.

WEBSITE: Find information and all documents needed for girls' packets.

CONTACTS: Director: Deedy Harrell georgiagirlsstate@gmail.com 770-337-7997. **Assistant Director:** Gabriele Barnett: 706-951-3906 email: barnettgabriele@hotmail.com **Application Manager:** Cynthia Orms: (478) 232-4831

2nd Vice President/Membership

Cheryl Waybright

Membership is on fire! Since our last newsletter in November, Georgia went from 46% of goal to almost 68% of goal made. This is the huge momentum we need to hit that 85% mark by March 15th!

In other amazing news, this year, to date, we have **TEN 100% GOAL UNITS** There are 18 units with 3, 2 or 1 members needed to reach that coveted status!

Sooooo, don't take your unit's membership foot off that gas pedal – press harder! REALLY, there are no cops & speed traps in this race... **Let it rip!**

We are a couple thousand members away from making goal. **Have you heard the news?** The 2,250 members that haven't renewed yet are not eligible for ALA member benefits. No discounts, no eligibility for raffles, and so on! Let's remind them to stay in the fray and continue their membership so we can all continue our mission of serving veterans.

OH NO! All those on the rosters you pull from ALAMIS that expired on 12/31/21 are going to fall off the list unless you get them to renew/rejoin. **Let's bring 'em back.** *(Tip, look at those that fell off on 12/31/20... ask them too!)*

Ask every member to engage and help with recruiting. Look around your unit and make sure you are living and delivering on the four key outreach activities – VA&R, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. Units that provide “spaces” for service in support of our mission are thriving and organically attract and retain 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 the weekly membership reports from the Department.

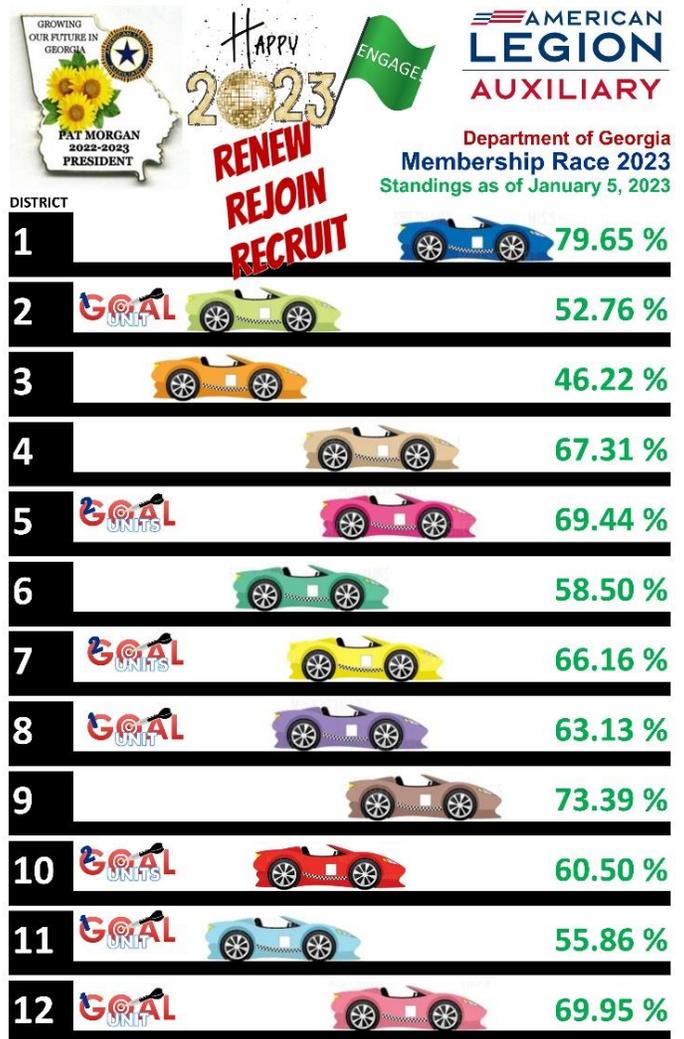
Be sure to take the time to THANK and SUPPORT the Unit and District Membership chairs – these team members have an ongoing Auxiliary “job” – it doesn't end with one event. Thank them. Help them. Encourage them!

Please seek advice when you hit a roadblock, call me! It's going to be an exciting year! Let's do this!

Cheryl Waybright

2nd Vice President & Membership

404-625-6708 ★ CLWaybright@gmail.com



Can the First District be Caught?

Can we have more goal units? 5 in every district?

Don't forget to start looking at the membership annual report and start filling it in. Reporting season will sneak up on us – fast!



Spotlight on Folkston Unit 130. Led by chartering President Gloria Chambers, this unit will receive its formal Charter from President Pat Morgan and 2nd Vice President Cheryl Waybright on January 14th. Start clapping now!

Wise Women

Did you know? The Department of Georgia has 36 current members that are age 96 or older that have renewed for 2023?

They average almost 28 years of membership with the longest membership at 80 years! They represent 0.6% of our membership base whereas the 46–75-year-olds represent nearly 53%. *(Note, our data is not 100% accurate – some birthdates are missing or incorrect.)*

Historian

Gail Ramey

HISTORY

Have you turned in your impact reporting and commentary to your unit Historian and President for May – December 2022?

Now's the time to get caught up and ahead of your individual and unit impact reporting and to begin (if you have not started already) compiling your history book.

May 1 will be here before you know it. **What did you do in 2022 to capture the wonderful things your unit is doing?** Please encourage your unit to report in all categories – basically, there is a report due for every committee. When a unit reports, it helps the Historian prepare the History Book! And reporting helps us get better! Please download the 2022-2023 Department of Georgia History Book Rules and the file for the Annual Historian Report: <https://www.aladepg.com/forms-1>.

Stay up to date with the National Historian, ALA 2022-2023 National Historian in the National American Legion Historians Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAHistorians>

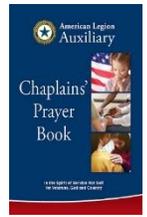
Gail Ramey

Historian, Department of Georgia

770-262-2524 ★ gailramey@msn.com**Chaplain**

Pamela Stroud

The ALA Chaplains' Prayer Book and Manual of Ceremonies (both available for free – just log in to the ALA) are amazing resources. <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/resources/chaplain-resources>



When you need motivation, check into (and join) the ALA National Chaplain Facebook Group. You will have to answer some questions to be granted access. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALACHaplains>

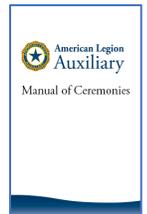
Consider sharing the story about U.S. Four Chaplains Day which is celebrated on February 3 every year in recognition of four Army chaplains who acted in the spirit of heroic sacrifice and humanitarianism onboard a sinking ship.

Please begin to gather information for your 2022-2023 reports! I am here to help.

Stay Prayerful and Blessed,

Pam Stroud

Chaplain, Department of Georgia

706-326-4861 ★ pstroud9@icloud.com

AMERICANISM – February is Americanism month within The American Legion. and the American Legion Auxiliary Americanism Essay Contest is rapidly approaching!

In the American Legion Auxiliary, the key program statements supporting Americanism are:

- Be knowledgeable on flag history, etiquette, and proper disposal methods, and promote the observation of patriotic holidays so your community will look to the ALA for information.
- Increase participation in the Americanism Essay Contest.
- Participate in the promotion of The American Legion Americanism programs.

Now is the time to reach out to your local schools and begin promoting the American Legion Auxiliary Americanism Essay Contest. The information sheet is available under Member Resources on the Department website: <https://www.aladepg.com/forms-1>

Reach out to Kristine Alexander, Chair Department of Georgia Americanism to address questions on the deadlines. (770.715.0332 or Krisann@windstream.net) Units will have to submit their winning essays to the Department which will select winners to be submitted

to the Southern Division Americanism Chair. **That date is April 15! So, essays will be due sometime in late March to the Department.**

“The concept of 100 percent Americanism arose from the founding of The American Legion to build national pride, advance patriotism, promote U.S. citizenship, educate young people (mentally and physically alike), promote the U.S. Constitution and to counter threats to freedom, democracy, law and order, which the founders had pledged their lives to defend.” To find out more about the history of Americanism within The American Legion, consider taking a moment to read about it:

<https://centennial.legion.org/americanism>

If you are the Americanism Chair for your Unit or District, or if you are just interested, be sure to join the private ALA National Facebook Group (*you may need your membership number when you answer the admittance questions*):

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



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: _____



Upcoming Events & Dates to Note

1/14 POALR PLUNGE CHALLENGE, Tybee Island

1/16..... Desert Storm (Persian Gulf) Began (1991)

1/16..... Martin Luther King Jr. Day

1/27 Vietnam War Cease Fire (1973)

1/31..... Panama Campaign Ended (1990)

FEBRUARY is AMERICAN LEGION AMERICANISM MONTH

2/1..... National Freedom Day

2/2..... Army Nurse Corp Established (1901)/Groundhog Day

2/3..... USO Incorporated

2/5 Four Chaplain’s Sunday

2/13..... Marine Corps Women’s Reserve Established (1943)

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 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

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**



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

