

# DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA AUXILIARY NEWS

September 2019  
Volume 10, Issue 3



## A Word from the President

By Valerie Brown-Debro, Department President

### September Reflection



I was able to attend the American Legion's Membership workshop in Indianapolis; the topic was, "The Legion Act" - Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act- also redefines The American Legion's membership eligibility dates. The eligibility now spans from Dec. 7, 1941, until a time when the U.S. is no longer at war, as determined by Congress.

Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary now open to male spouses of U.S. veterans and service members. The resolution was passed at our National Convention to change the name to spouse on applications. American Legion has voted to extend membership in the American Legion Auxiliary to male spouses of U.S. veterans and service members.

What a way to kick off the year with the American Legion Family. We had a VAVS - Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service meeting in August with Georgia's VA's Chief of Staff at department headquarters. Great information received on volunteering at the facilities and making sure that our names are properly entered in the VSS- Veterans Service System that's reported to National and Congress. We shared the importance of working together as The American Legion Family.

We also had our 1<sup>st</sup> annual organizational meeting of the year held in Warner Robins at Post 594. Thank you to all of the American Legion Family that invited us to attend, with over 140 in attendance of that 50 were Auxiliary members. A Big "SHOUT OUT" to our Auxiliary Officers, including our honorary Junior President, Committee Chairman and members. Including dual members, who took the time to come out and receive the information shared on Who we are and what we do that matters. Our Mission statement and purpose in belonging to the world's largest patriotic organization.

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Once we had a breakout session into groups, some of the topics included the importance of communicating. Knowing your governing documents, the purpose of keeping them current, DEC 101, Officer and Chairmen Roles and responsibilities, VA Abbreviations and Auxiliary Acronym and Who's responsible for your Audit. Highlighted remarks from Officers with questions and answers sessions. If you haven't received the information from District President or Chairman, please ask for the material to be shared with your Units.

A Personal Shout Out!!! Thank you Scarlette for manning the fundraising tickets selling our shirts, pins and Unit Activity Guides. Thank you to the Sergeant-at-arms that were in attendance for all of the paper distributions, we provided a lot of information. Thank you to Peggi & Willa for your assistance in setting up the quilts, donated by Betty Heathman and Mary Lepley.

From my heart to yours, a special thank you to every member of the Department of Georgia, for all that you do in serving together our veterans, military families and communities.

**Valerie Brown-Debro**  
ALA Department of Georgia President  
2019-2020

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

# Secretary

By Patty Hawkins, Department Secretary

*Many new exciting things coming down from National Headquarters. Be on the lookout for them.*

National Convention was very eventful, with some interesting changes in membership and Constitution/ By-Laws.

New membership eligibility changes have arrived. I will have them posted on our website as soon it's available. Just look on page 6 of this newsletter to read some of the details.

**Challenge: The Unit that has the most 10 x 10 Award winners will be recognize in the newsletter with their picture.**

There are also some new awards for Membership available. You can go to the National website under (Members Only) to look at the awards such as the 10 x10 Award 2020. Ten new members (juniors or seniors) by November 10 (have to be entered into ALAMIS by 11/10/2020) the ALA'S 100 Birthday. This is a member's award of \$100. Let's get the challenge going as to how many will get the \$100. Which Unit will have the most to win the Prize of \$100.

Members Tell Me All The Time They Need Training, Well Here Is Your Chance. We Have Department Leadership Beginning With Registration At 9am And Commence At 2:30pm.

## LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

|                  |   |     |
|------------------|---|-----|
| SEPTEMBER 14, 19 | DISTRICT 1 - UNIT 90 STATESBORO           | 9AM |
| SEPTEMBER 21, 19 | DISTRICT 9 - UNIT 127 BUFORD              | 9AM |
| SEPTEMBER 28, 19 | DISTRICT 10 - UNIT 233 LOGANVILLE         | 9AM |
| OCTOBER 5, 19    | DISTRICT 11 - UNIT 178 AUGUSTA            | 9AM |
| OCTOBER 12, 19   | DISTRICT 12 - UNIT 336 LAKELAND           | 9AM |
| NOVEMBER 23, 19  | DISTRICT 5 - UNIT 294 POWDER SPRINGS      | 9AM |
| JANUARY 18, 20   | DISTRICT 5 - UNIT 160 SMYRNA              | 9AM |
| JANUARY 25, 20   | DISTRICT 8 - UNIT 69 ALMA                 | 9AM |
| FEBRUARY 1, 20   | DISTRICT 3 - UNIT 35 COLUMBUS (TENTATIVE) | 9AM |
| FEBRUARY 8, 20   | DISTRICT 2 - UNIT 30 ALBANY               | 9AM |
| FEBRUARY 22, 20  | DISTRICT 6 - UNIT 172 WARNER ROBINS       | 9AM |

### NEWS from VA& R Chairman Miriam Stein

Ladies, hello and I know you are working for our veterans. Georgia Angels please get them fundraisers going earning that money for the veterans. You need to send the money as soon as possible to Dept. for the Gift shops. The reps need to start shopping early to make our money go further. We have to hit those bargains. It takes a lot of gifts for our hospitals. Remember our mission is for our veterans. Thank you for what you do for veterans! Miriam Stein

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

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

It was an honor to serve as a delegate to the 99<sup>th</sup> ALA National Convention held in Indianapolis in August. It is a historic year for the American Legion Auxiliary, membership in the ALA is now open to all spouses of the American Legion.

This month will be a busy one in Leadership in the Department. The Leadership classes are as followed:

**September 14<sup>th</sup>, at Unit 90** – Statesboro (Contact: Susan Uhlendofs @ 912-688-4058)

**September 21<sup>st</sup>, at Unit 127** – Buford (Contact: Gail Ramey @ 770-262-2524)

**September 28<sup>th</sup>, at Unit 233** – Loganville (Contact: Mary Nelson @470-774-1234)

**October 5<sup>th</sup>, at Unit 178** – Augusta (Contact Miriam Stein @ 706-399-7539)

Remember the Leadership sessions are not just for those members that are in a Leadership position, but for all members of the American Legion Auxiliary. We are **Spreading Our Wings** all across the state to reach as many members as possible to educate them on the ALA. Please encourage all your officers and members to attend. We will be covering many topics and answering any questions you might have; it will be a fun filled day!

Reminder that National will be holding 2 Mission Training sessions this year. The first to be held in conjunction with the Junior National Meeting will be held on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020, in Orlando Florida. The second will be held on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in Nashville Tenn. Registration for both can be found on the National website at [www.alaforveterans.org/misiontraining](http://www.alaforveterans.org/misiontraining).

Coming soon there will be two new online trainings, the first is for our Junior members, and the other will be on Conflict Resolution please continue to watch for these updates. Please continue to participate in the online training and encourage your members to sign up also.

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, do more and become more you are a leader”

John Quincy Adams

Susan Hall  
Vice President  
Leadership Chairman  
(508)-944-0791  
Suem\_66@yahoo.com

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

By Pat Morgan, Department 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Our Georgia Angels should be working on membership. Your new unit quotas are on the Department website for the 2019-2020 year. Units who increase their membership by 1 member over last year's membership (as of July 27, 2019) by the Auxiliary Birthday are eligible to receive \$100 from National. I feel there are people in our communities that are relatives of a veteran and are not aware the Auxiliary exists. Working the Auxiliary programs is one way to get our name out there and recruit new members.

Reach out to previous members who have not renewed in several years. Invite them to a round table to find out why they did not renew. This will give you an opportunity for them to rejoin and for your unit to correct any issues and in turn not lose any existing members.

Leaderships will begin shortly and the new changes and updates to membership will be discussed along with the awards available for members and units.

I look forward to seeing you at the Fall Conference next month. If I can assist you in any way, you may contact me by email at [pimorga@aol.com](mailto:pimorga@aol.com) or at 2229 Johnson Short Rd., Quitman, GA 31643.

Pat Morgan  
(229) 561-4070

## “Angels Working As One For Veterans”



## HISTORIAN CORNER

By Cheryl Jackson Sinkler, Department Historian



*“Study the past if you would define the future.”*

We are well on our way into the new administration and a lot has been covered. All Posts and Units installations have been completed. Some have even had their first fundraiser, district meeting and some of you may have begun planning your year in review.

This is the time to begin documenting your Units history and keeping monthly reports on all that has been covered, using your Units meeting minutes, publications and archives. Another suggestion is to keep a monthly report of your Units history. Keeping these reports will aid you when it is time to submit your mid-year, end-of-year reports and history books and will keep you from scrambling to gather pertinent information.

Many of you have attended the National Convention and received a wealth of information to bring back to your Units. This is also a part of your Units history.

All mid-year reports are due by December 15th. You may send them to me by email at [cheryl.jackson08@yahoo.com](mailto:cheryl.jackson08@yahoo.com) or to 204 Possum Creek Lane, Dallas, GA 30132. Please update your activity books to reflect this address. If there is anything, I can do to assist you, please feel free to contact me at 770-875-5987.

### 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.

# Department Chaplain

By: Gloria Smith Fox, Chaplain

Hope all of you are fairing well, especially with the onset of the summer heat in Georgia! But now as we are coming into September, kids in school, and everyone (mostly, lol, exceptions are retirees) getting back into routines. Even retirees, we have our little routines. I am happy the grass will start slowing down and I won't have to push that mower before 7 days have passed! LOL

We all should be staying in our routines of daily serving others and studying the Word. But sometimes with the busyness it's hard. I got this email today from LOOPS, love the messages. And this one goes along with what I was going to write about this month.

We all get stuck sometimes and need a little push to move forward. Get off ourselves and move on. God will never leave us, and when we get stuck He is still there. Let's stay on the focused part of our lives and encourage those around you to move forward with you. Our journeys are not done yet. Hope you enjoy this excerpt from LOOPS.

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Go Forward, Girl

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).*

Lean back, now. I've got you. I circle my arms around you. I know what this day holds. A few twists and turns. A disappointment. A moment of beauty. A caress of your heart. (Yes, that's Me.) I hold your heart.

Do you want your love for Me to grow? Do you want to live fearlessly, completely, surrounded by Me, with Me? Can you go ahead into new territory knowing you are not alone? Can your feet find the steps, your lungs the fresh air, your heart the pace I set?

*I am with you.*

You say 'yes' to where I call you and, of course, I am in it with you.

*You do not go alone.*

*Continued in next column*

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You are receiving Loop emails of encouragement because you signed up for Loop: what you need to know.)

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So don't forget to mark your calendars for the Leadership Training Susan Baldwin Hall has in store for us this coming year. We at the Department are part of the Leadership Team so we are looking forward to seeing as many of you as can make one or more of the Training Sessions.

Have a blessed day and till we meet again...keep moving forward.

Gloria Smith Fox

## 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 99TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

## **Male spouses may now join the American Legion Auxiliary**

The American Legion has voted to extend membership in the American Legion Auxiliary to male spouses of U.S. veterans and servicemembers. During The American Legion National Convention in Indianapolis in August, delegates of The American Legion voted to replace the word "wife" with "spouse" in their constitution and bylaws, opening up membership in the American Legion Auxiliary. Follow [this link](#) to read more about this change and the opportunities it brings to ALA membership.

## **Second Lady Karen Pence receives ALA Public Spirit Award**

Second Lady of the United States Karen Pence addressed the National Convention body Aug. 28 as she received the American Legion Auxiliary Public Spirit Award. Mrs. Pence talked about the spouses and families who serve alongside our servicemembers. [Click here](#) to read more.

## **Iowa member elected 2019-2020 national president**

Nicole Clapp from the Department of Iowa was elected national president for our centennial year. Read more about her focus for the 2019-2020 administrative year in the November issue of *Auxiliary* magazine. [Learn more](#) about Clapp and the national officers who will be serving alongside her.

## **Resolutions passed**

The National Convention body passed several amendments to national committee structure changes, which will streamline those committees and make them more efficient. This included eliminating the number of committee members for a handful of programs. Contact your 2019-2020 National Executive Committeemember for further information about the structure changes.

- Two new updates will affect ALA eligibility:

- The LEGION Act was signed by POTUS in July of 2019 which no longer requires The Legion, and thus the ALA, to verify which time period a veteran served....we just have to verify now that they served for at least one day of active duty (and boot camp from the 1960's on counts as active duty).
- Male spouses of Legion members (or Legion-eligible deceased veterans) will be eligible to join as of Sept. 1, 2019....but no other categories of males (not sons, grandsons, fathers, or brothers). The male spouses are subject to the same rules of eligibility as female spouses – if the veteran spouse of the male spouse is living, he/she must be a current TAL member in good standing; if the veteran spouse of the male spouse is deceased, he/she has to provide documentation of his/her veteran spouse's service showing they served at least one day of active duty. This makes male spouses of female TAL members/veterans now eligible. Federal law legalized same sex marriage so as long as a male TAL member is legally married to his male partner, that partner/spouse is eligible to join the ALA.  
*\*\*Common law marriage is only recognized in a few states, but for those that do recognize it legally, so does the ALA.*
  - **New applications will be forthcoming in Sept that reflect both of these changes. Please keep an eye out for these...they should be posted/distributed by your dept but will always be on the national website. *\*\*New applications will be on our website here in the box in the upper right: <https://www.alaforveterans.org/Joining/>***
  - You can use up old applications if you want....just write in a box for “Male spouses/widowers” in the “Applicants relationship to Veteran” area.....and a box for “Other conflicts/service periods” in the “Veteran Served” section for those who served during a time not currently listed.



**National Security**  
**Judy Thompson, Chairperson**  
**September News 2019**

September marks National Preparedness Month, and I would like to encourage you, the members to talk to your family and loved ones about plans in case of a disaster or emergency. As you already know the hurricane season is already underway, please join me in praying for everyone who is currently being impacted by Hurricane Dorian.

**TIPS AND TOOLS**

Stock up on supplies, like water and non-perishable food; make sure to have medications, glasses, hearing aids, and plenty of batteries. Be sure to have all documents together; have an evacuation plan for the family and don't forget your pets. Have your local radio or television on for live updates. Visit [gema.georgia.gov](http://gema.georgia.gov) for information on emergency preparedness, shelters, road closure and evacuation routes. Encourage your members to complete Community Emergency Response Training.  
[www.citizencorps.gov/cert/training\\_mat.shtm](http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/training_mat.shtm)

For more information about preparing for disasters visit [www.ready.ga.gov](http://www.ready.ga.gov) or download the Ready Georgia mobile app for iPhone and Android. As always, if you need any help with assistance in the aftermath, nonprofit agencies, the ALA Emergency Fund. (Members Helping Members in Crisis). Be GENEROUS when you give to the American Emergency Fund, you're giving a fellow Auxiliary member not just help, but hope.

**NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY**

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed on the third Friday in September. This year it is on the 20<sup>th</sup>. It honors those who were prisoners of war (POWs) and those who are still missing in action (MIA). The POW/MIA Flag should be fly below or adjacent to the United States Flag as second in order of precedence. POW/MIA Empty Chair Resolution 288 calls for designating a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all meeting of The American Legion. Units should follow this resolution at all official meetings and events. [www.legion.org/pow/mia](http://www.legion.org/pow/mia)

## UNIT REVITALIZATION

Revitalization is about identifying new ideas that can breathe life into Units. It is more than just organizing new Units and trying to help Units keep their charters. Revitalization is also about providing mentors for struggling Units, providing training for new members, and finding leaders to replace long-time chairmen and officers. More importantly, revitalization is about finding, exploring and trying new ways for all members to become more engaged in meaningful opportunities for mission outreach.

The American Legion Auxiliary has created a guide to assist in revitalizing units. The guide can be found on the National website ([alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org)). You will have to log in or create an account using your member number. Under the “Members Resources” heading, click on “Department and Unit Resources”, and scroll down to the “Unit Resources” heading. The PDF file can be opened or saved onto your computer.

To create a Revitalization Team, a Unit President can select several highly-motivated and knowledgeable members who are comfortable speaking to strangers, present a positive and personal image, and are willing to visit members. One member will be appointed as the team chairman.

The chairman should “Be” many things.:

Be knowledgeable about the program.

Be available to answer questions and be wise enough to say, “I don’t know”, then find out the answer.

Be practical and delegate tasks to others on the team. She should be cooperative, energetic and dedicated.

Be cooperative with other organizations to reach as many people as possible.

Be energetic and demonstrate your capability to others by first motivating yourself to a high degree.

Be dedicated as that is the key to a successful program. Maintaining your motivation and enthusiasm gives you the strength to carry on with your mission.

Next month, we’ll get back to basics!

For God and Country, Sarah Zingarelli, chairman





**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 2019

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| September 2, 2019                          | Labor Day                       |
| September 8, 2019                          | Grandparents' Day               |
| September 11, 2019                         | Patriot Day                     |
| September 16, 2019                         | Stepfamily Day                  |
| September 17, 2019                         | Citizenship Day                 |
| September 27, 2019                         | Native American Day             |
| October 14, 2019                           | Columbus Day                    |
| October 16, 2019                           | Boss's Day                      |
| October 19, 2019                           | Sweetest Day                    |
| <b>October 18 – 20<sup>th</sup></b>        | <b>Department Conference</b>    |
|  | <b>DEC October 18 @ 6pm</b>     |
| October 18 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> | Fall Conference. Sonesta Duluth |

All the great things are simple,  
and many can be expressed in a single word:  
freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy, hope.  
- Winston Churchill



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