





Department of Georgia Auxiliary News
May 2023: Volume 12, Issue 8



Pat Morgan, President – Department of Georgia

GROWING OUR FUTURE

April showers brought us May flowers.

It is hard to believe that it is already May!

Where has this year gone?

Our National President Vickie Koutz visited Georgia March 31 – April 4. Thank you to Post 178 for a delicious Steak Dinner when Madam President arrived on March 31. The steaks were outstanding as always.

District 1 President Sabrina Putney and her Unit members went over and beyond to assure that Madam President felt welcome. A big thank you to all the Post members in District 1 that hosted the lunches and dinners. The food was amazing, and their hospitality was outstanding. A big shout out to the American Legion Riders from District 11 and District 1 to assure we arrived at all our destinations safely.

Our first stop in District 1 was to visit with Legion Family members during their annual picnic. President Koutz stated that she really enjoyed visiting with members one-on-one. Thank you to Rose Moss for the informative tour of Downtown Savannah and to Denise Woodard for the beautiful cottage that we stayed in.

I had the pleasure of signing the paperwork to Charter a New Unit! Welcome to the members of Unit #217 Chickamauga to our American Legion Family. I also signed the paperwork for a new charter for Unit #71 in District 6, Wilcox County. We are definitely “Growing our Future” with these new Units.

The Poppy Anchor Launching will occur on May 29 on Tybee Island. This year the Coast Guard will host the Launch from Ft. Pulaski. Please send an email to me by May 15th if you intend to attend the event and would like to reserve a seat on the boat. I must have a count of the number of people and names who will attend per Coast Guard requirements.



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May Day – May 1 – THANK YOU to all Units who prepared reports and submitted them to Department Chairpersons (and to your districts). I know amazing things are being accomplished throughout the state. I hope you bragged on yourself and let everyone know just how wonderful you are. It is your time to shine.

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

Pat Morgan
American Legion Auxiliary
President, Department of Georgia

**Volunteers DO NOT necessarily have the time.
THEY HAVE THE HEART!!**

Secretary & Treasurer

Patty Hawkins

Welcome to May!



The THUNDER is rolling in membership and while it may be time for those April showers to bring May flowers, *in our ALA world of administration – IT IS **REPORTS AND FORMS SEASON!*** Do not let lightning strike your Unit or the wheels fall off your Unit's car by not getting your paperwork in. NOT doing it does cause problems. So, Let's DO IT!

Pay attention to the forms – some require members to vote on delegates at unit and district level... Just sayin' – It is at the May meetings that this business is conducted. Each form is listed below, is underlined, and contains a hyper link to the form – **click it and submit it.** Red = Hot Links!

Your unit should have submitted the Department **Obligation and Contribution Form** – it was due April 1, 2023. Only the Units who submit this and payment are eligible to vote at the Department Convention.

The **Dues Rate Change 2024 Form** was due May 1, 2023. Do not be caught owing \$30 to update it after the cut-off date. A list has been circulated... is your unit on it? If so – please get the form turned in.

The Obligation and Contribution Form and the Dues Rate Change Form (and payments) are **Mandatory** for EVERY UNIT to submit EVERY YEAR.

Registration for the June Department Convention.

The convention is June 23-25, 2023, at the Sonesta Gwinnett Place hotel. Submit the **Registration and Banquet/Hotel FORM** and payment as directed on the form by May 12th for early bird pricing of \$10 per person. (\$30/attendee after May 12th.)

UNIT FORMS:

Unit Data Form Due June 2nd

Unit Officers Yearly Form 2024 Due June 3rd

Dept. Convention Delegates & Alternates 2023 Due June 8th

DISTRICT FORM:

DISTRICT OFFICERS FORM 2024 – this form is due immediately AFTER your District elections but no later than June 2nd.

Patty Hawkins

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

PS If any of the above links do not work – all the forms are on the Department website look on the left column.
<https://www.aladepgtga.com/forms-1>

2023 Department Convention – At-a-Glance

Thursday, June 22, 2023 – 6:00 pm

Department Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting
All are welcome to attend, only those with voting rights may participate in the conduct of the business of the Committee.

Friday, June 23, 2023 – 9:00 am

Convention Day 1 – All unit leaders and members are encouraged to attend. Nominations for Officers will be conducted. Presentation of Reports and Awards.

Saturday, June 24, 2023 – 9am

*Convention Day 2 – All unit leaders and members are encouraged to attend. General Business and elections will be conducted. Presentation of Reports and Awards.
Banquet/Dance 6:30 pm*

Sunday, June 25, 2023 – 8:30 am

Convention Day 3 All unit leaders and members are encouraged to attend. Memorial Service followed by the closing of the Convention and Post Convention DEC Meeting.

1st Vice President/Leadership

Cheryl Jackson Sinkler



Hello everyone,

It was great to see those of you I have not seen in a while and those of you I see often at the Spring Conference. I would like to take this time to thank our first-time members who attended the Spring Conference, and we hope to see you again at future conferences as well as Conventions. Let's all please welcome first time members recognized.

During the leadership segment of the Spring Conference a skit was presented by the Department Officers. The title of the skit was, "All Through The Years" which highlighted the Department of GA's transition throughout the wars. The skit was educational and fun.

Unfortunately, there are ongoing concerns regarding protocol, and policy and procedures. Although policy and procedures have been updating, the foundation of this organization has remained the same. First and foremost, we must adhere to our governing documents which are our Constitution and Bylaws/Standing Rules (needs to be updated every 2 years and submitted to every member within the Unit).

To prevent the discord within the Unit we must follow the Golden Rule below:

In The Spirit of Service Not Self

To remain successful, we must focus on our mission which is to support the American Legion and honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad.

For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace, and security.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Department of GA 1st Vice President and Leadership Chairman for 2022-23.

Cheryl Jackson-Sinkler

1st Vice President – Leadership Chair, Department of Georgia
770-875-5987 ★ cheryl.jackson0808@outlook.com
204 Possum Creek Lane | Dallas, GA 30132

2nd Vice President/Membership

Cheryl Waybright

Growing our Future through Membership **Engagement!**



April Highlights

- District 1 hit Goal!
- Six units reached goal status!
- Two new charters signed.
- 200 Memberships processed!
- Unit 29 hit 400 members!

And can we talk about **Reporting Mayhem**? Reports are in the Units' rearview mirror - can you guess how many units submitted reports? Send a note to me with your guess. *THANK YOU ALL FOR REPORTING.*

Now it is time for our District Presidents to compile their reports and DISTRICT IMPACT REPORTS and their teams are still seeing FORM and REPORT MANIA through the windshield. **You Got This!** Reporting is important to the health of the organization at all levels. In case you wonder why Units must turn in reports on May 1, it is because Department Chairs must assemble the information provided by Units and submit Department Reports to Division and National by May 15.

New Units! We will present the Charter on May 8 to new Unit 217, Chickamauga (D7) and we await from National the final paperwork for new Unit 71, Wilcox County (D6) – it is a busy time for membership.

ENGAGE, and bring the thunder! You ask WHY? Our Mission Matters – amping up our membership can build unit foundational strength!

Let's amplify what we are doing now! Get those buddy checks done (call you expired 2022 members). Did you know? Renewing members is much easier than recruiting new. Ask the uninvolved what it will take to re-ENGAGE them. Like the sneaker swoosh, **JUST DO IT!**

Please do not take the foot off the pedal. There are STILL LONG laps ahead of us. Membership is not OVER yet. You can rest for a minute on July 29th. What does that mean? Dig deep and make your goal. Already made goal – reach out and help with buddy checks for neighboring units in your district. Lend a hand.

Thank you for staying engaged and bringing the thunder!

**Bring the Thunder
Press the Turbo Boosters!**

Cheryl Waybright

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

Historian

Gail Ramey



Auxiliary Members,

I hope all of you have submitted a History Report and/or History Book for judging. I can't stress how important recording your Unit history is to the members that will come in the future. Your history will give the future members a guide to what has worked and what has not worked in support of your Unit. I have received a few reports but would love to receive more. The reports were due May 1, but I will take them even after that point. I request all reports and History books be sent to me by June 1 so I will have time to review them in time for the Convention in June.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Convention.

If you still need forms, you can find the History Book Rules and Annual History Report at www.aladepgta.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.

Gail Ramey

Historian, Department of Georgia

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

Pamela Stroud

From the Desk of Chaplain

Hello Auxiliary.

National Poppy Day is May 26: Poppy Day is celebrated in countries around the world. The American Legion brought National Poppy Day® to the United States by asking Congress to designate the Friday before Memorial Day, as National Poppy Day. On the Friday before Memorial Day, wear a red poppy to honor the fallen and support the living who have worn our nation's uniform.

The Bible tells us in Peter Chap. 1, versus 24-25 that All flesh is like grass and its glory like the flower may wither and fall, but the word of the lord remains strong forever. Poppies are bright and cheerful flowers, let's say thank you to God for your grace and mercy for all of us.

Thanks to all who submitted reports.

Be Blessed,**Pam Stroud**

Chaplain, Department of Georgia

706-326-4861 ★ pstroud9@icloud.com**Memorial Day**

“On Memorial Day, the American Legion Family will honor the more than 1 million men and women who have lost their lives defending America since the Revolutionary War.” (American Legion - <https://www.legion.org/honor>)

Did you know? The American Legion provides and American Legion Memorial Day speech for 2023? It is available for American Legion departments, districts, and posts to use for Memorial Day events at [THIS LINK](#).

Did you know? Observe the National Moment of Silence at 3 p.m. “Congress passed The National Moment of Remembrance Act to honor America’s fallen heroes. Per the law, signed by U.S. President Bill Clinton in 2000, Americans – wherever they are at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day – are encouraged to pause for one minute as part of an act of national unity.” [Source](#).

Did you know? Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day and took place on May 30 each year? “In 1968, the U.S. government passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which put major holidays on specific Mondays to give federal employees three-day weekends. Memorial Day was one of these holidays, along with Washington's Birthday, Labor Day, and Columbus Day. The act also codified the name "Memorial Day" into law. It all went into effect in 1971.” [Source](#).

Did you know? Waterloo, NY is the birthplace of Memorial Day? In 1966, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, N.Y., the “birthplace” of Memorial Day. [Source](#).

Did you know? That if you Google “Memorial Day” you will get “About 1,100,002,023 results in 0.54 seconds?”

Announcements: Candidates for Department Officers 2023 – 2024



Paul E. Kelly Jr.
Unit 296
Marietta , Georgia
And
Fifth District
 Have the honor to present
Cheryl Jackson-Sinkler
 As a candidate for
President
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Georgia
2023-2024

Unit President
Carla Thomas

Unit Secretary
Theonnie Shields



Unit 160
Smyrna, Georgia
And Fifth District
 Have the honor to present
Cheryl Waybright
 As a candidate for
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Georgia
2023-2024

Kari Masechark
 Unit 160 President

Suzanne Eisenhauer
 Unit 160 1st Vice President



Unit 127
Sugar Hill, Georgia
And
The 9th District
 Have the honor to present
Gail Ramey
 As a candidate for
2nd Vice President
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Georgia
2023-2024

1st Vice President
Malinda Bailey

Secretary
Judy Farrell



American Legion Auxiliary
Unit 336
Lakeland, Georgia
 Has the honor to present
Susan Hall
 As a candidate for
National Executive
Committee Person from the
Department of Georgia
2023-2026

Carol Moore
 Unit 336 President

Susanne Smith
 Unit 336 Vice President

Announcements: Candidates for Department Officers 2023 - 2024



Samuel G. Cooke
Unit 267
Columbus, Georgia
Has the honor to present
Pamela Stroud
As a candidate for
Historian
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Georgia
2023-2024

Laverne Williams *Barbara Miller*
Unit 267 President *Unit 267 Secretary*



Heyward Fields
Unit 239
Dahlonega, Georgia
And
Ninth District
Have the honor to present
Pamela J. Eckler
As a candidate for
Historian
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Georgia
2023-2024

Unit President *Secretary*
Pamela Eckler *Melanie Eckler*



American Legion Auxiliary
District 12
Has the honor to present
Patricia Morgan
As a candidate for
Alternate National Executive
Committee Person from the
Department of Georgia
2023-2024

Shelia Blanton *Susan Hall*
District President *District Secretary*

Announcements Resolutions

Joann Meadows, Chairperson

Resolutions must be in the hand of the Resolution Chairperson NO later than June 1, 2023 (NOT just postmarked June 1, 2023).

Mail three copies to:

Joann Meadows, Resolutions Chairperson
105 Woodridge Drive, NW
Woodridge Estates,
Calhoun GA. 30701-9424

Mail one copy to:

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Georgia
C/O Patty Hawkins, Secretary
3035 Mount Zion Road
Stockbridge GA 30281

to arrive NO later than June1, 2023.

The 2023 Resolution Form is available at <https://www.aladdeptga.com/forms-1> (right-hand column).

ALAMIS Access What's New?

At the Spring Department Executive Committee Meeting, a motion was made and approved regarding ALAMIS access. It read *“the Department of Georgia, beginning with the 2024 administrative year, allow units to gain Full Access to ALAMIS if they so desire and if they meet the requirements set forth by the National organization.”*

Therefore, units in Georgia choosing to bypass writing checks and mailing transmittals to the Department may leverage a more streamlined membership management experience. Doing this will allow memberships to immediately post.

What does this mean to your Unit?

Your unit may choose now from three levels of access instead of two. The former Read and Write access levels remain unchanged.

The **Full Access** feature is now available for units to apply to utilize in the 2024 Membership Year and beyond if the unit continues to meet the requirements and pay the annual fee. Units who have leadership team members who are comfortable with the Write access and who are accustomed to working in an online environment.

Please read this post from ALA National Membership Committee Vice Chair – Tracy Kinnick in which she explains more about the levels of access. Expect to hear more about this at our Department Convention and to see the new ALAMIS form coming out shortly.



American Legion Auxiliary National Membership Group

Tracy Marie Kinnick May 1, 2023

ALAMIS ACCESS

There are multiple levels of ALAMIS access. Knowing which level works best for your unit will help you manage your membership goals and enhance your membership relationships with your members.

Read – Read level allows for you to just pull reports, with no editing access.

Write – Write allows you to manage the following for your membership:

- Add new members.
- Update member information.
- Update member information if they do not want mail or phone calls.
- Add unit leadership information.
- Perform searches to see who had paid their dues, and who has not paid, help members find their membership number, etc.
- View reports to manage your membership, who are your PUFLS, paid dues report, and leadership roster, utilize Excel export to merge ALAMIS and reports to create mailing labels.

Full Access – Allows for all writing ability and paying membership dues. This is the newest level of ALAMIS access offered.

Full access allows units to bypass sending transmittals to their department office and pay National / Department dues online.

For full access, you need to have a few things in place:

- Unit must have a debit/credit card.
- Units must have approval from their department for full access.
- Unit users must complete training to gain access to full access ALAMIS.

Units will not have the ability to mark members as deceased in ALAMIS that will still be completed at the National Level.

All units should have some ALAMIS access to better manage your membership.

If the current membership chair does not work with computers, work with someone in your unit who can help you pull these reports. ALAMIS access allows you to not only work with your membership sending information but also allows units to check their numbers against transmittals sent to department offices to balance.

As you are moving towards the new year this is the time to budget in your ALAMIS cost.

\$ 10.00 Read Access

\$15.00 Write Access

\$20.00 Full Access

National President Visit

There are nearly a hundred pictures from our weekend with ALA National President Vickie Koutz posted on the National President’s Facebook page. Scroll through to the first weekend in April for more than the few shown here and on the next page. <https://www.facebook.com/alanationalpresident>



 **American Legion Auxiliary National President**
 April 3 at 5:21 PM · 🌐

These two legion posts went together and purchased a building together right outside of Hunter Army Airfield. I cannot wait to see it after all the renovations are complete!




Georgia Girls State Reminders

Georgia Girls State will be held in Valdosta, Georgia at Valdosta State University June 11 – 16, 2023

By now Units should have applications completed and payments in to the Department.

Refer to the April Newsletter for more information.

WEBSITE: www.georgiagirlsstate.org On the website you will be able to get applications and all documents necessary for girls' packets.

EMAIL: Georgia Girls State email: georgiagirlsstate@gmail.com for the Girls State Director, Deedy Harrell **PHONE number: Deedy 770-337-7997** Call or text Or the Assistant Director, Gabriele Barnett: Cell 706-951-3906 or email: barnettgabriele@hotmail.com Application manager: Cynthia Orms: (478) 232-4831

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **June 11, 2023**, Arrival at Girls State between 1:00 and 3:00 PM
- **June 16, 2023**, Graduation at 8:45 AM and departure by 12:00 PM. Arrangements should be made for the girls to be picked up by 12:00 noon on Friday, June 16.

Please join the Girls State Booster Club!! Donations are accepted to help sponsor girls. If units cannot afford to pay for a girl, send any amount and we can put it together with other donations so that girls can attend. Thanks to those units I can always call to help with girls who contact me to participate.

Please contact me if you need any assistance. I will help you in any way possible.

Girls State Director, Deedy Harrel



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):
Growing our Future through Membership Engagement

Upcoming Events & Due Dates to Note

- 5/8..... V-E Day (1945) Victory in Europe Day
- 5/10..... **IMPACT REPORTS FROM DISTRICTS ARE DUE TO DEPARTMENT**
- 5/10 **District Membership Reports due to Department Membership Chair**
- 5/12 **Department Convention Registration Forms/Payments Due (Early Bird).**
- 5/15 **Department Reports Due to Division & National Chairpersons.**
- May 20 ... Armed Forces Day
- May 26 ... National Poppy Day and 95% Department Membership Goal**
- 5/29 **Memorial Day & Department of Georgia Poppy Anchor Launch**
- 6/2 **Due Date for the Unit Data Form (2023 – 2024)**
- 6/2 **Due Date for the District Officers Form 2024**
- 6/3 **Due Date for the Unit Officers Yearly Form 2024**
- 6/3-9..... ALA Junior Camp, Villa Rica GA
- 6/8 **Due Date for ALA GA Convention Delegate & Alternates 2023 Form**
- 6/11-16 .. Girls State, Valdosta GA
- 6/14 **Flag Day**
- 6/14..... U.S. Army Birthday
- 6/19..... Juneteenth
- 6/22-25 .. Department Conference, Duluth GA
- 6/25..... Recognition of the beginning of the Korean War in 1950
- 7/4 **Independence Day**
- 7/22-29 .. Girls Nation, Washington, DC
- 7/27..... Korean War ends (1953)
- 8/25-31 .. 104th National Convention, Charlotte NC



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

