

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA

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ABOUT: *Georgia On My Mind* is a monthly publication

presented by the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Georgia on or about the 15th of each month. Did you find a mista

Or do you want to submit information for next month (due on the 5th of each month)? If yes, you can send your request and information to

Department@alageorgia.com or to PublicRelations@ALAGeorgia.com.



NEWS TO USE

GEORGIA FALL CONFERENCE

The Fall Conference was a blast. See photos later in the newsletter. We welcomed the National Historian, Dara Oliver as a special guest. Check out the Historian's column for the special news – Georgia makes history.

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

American Education Week is November 18-22, 2024: This is a wonderful time for units to support activities at the schools in our communities. Each day of the week has its own theme. Check out more on page 11.

JUNIORS

Plan now to bring juniors to the March Conference and register them for the Junior Camp. See last month's article by Committee Chair Kalyn and the camp forms in this newsletter. If you are bringing Juniors in March, please let Kalyn know. Stay tuned for more information next month.

MEMBERSHIP

Wow! Membership continues to be AMPED UP! As of November 13, 2024, Georgia is 5th in the Southern Division and 21st in the nation! This is because of YOU and our unit membership teams! Congratulations to all the 100% National Goal Units... so far!

75	LaGrange	09/11/24
321	Midway	09/11/24
502	Bainbridge	09/11/24
52	Rome	10/02/24
1	Atlanta	10/17/24
121	Blairsville	10/22/24
84	Habersham Co	10/23/24
76	Ft. Valley	11/06/24
21	Tifton	11/06/24

LEAD THE WAY...RENEW

All officers, EC members and committee chairs at all levels (*Unit, District and especially Department*) should have renewed their 2025 membership to Lead the Way! We would love to see twenty-five National 100% Goal Units this year!

HAPPY READING!

2024-2025 LEADERSHIP

President.....Cheryl Waybright
 1st Vice PresidentGail Ramey
 2nd Vice PresidentPam Eckler
 HistorianDebbie Hoopingarner
 ChaplainGloria Chambers
 Secretary/Treasurer.....Patty Hawkins
 NECSusan Hall
 NEC AlternatePat Morgan

Sergeants at Arms

Captain.....Melanie Eckler
 Cricket Agee, Melinda Gaskins
 Lindsey Coats, Melissa Patten
 Department Page.....Thea Fultz

MISSION COMMITTEES

Veterans AffairsMirima Stein
 National Security.....Laura Miller
 Children & YouthGabriele Barnett
 AmericanismKris Ann Alexander
 Community Service.....Sharon Wilson
 Education.....Dr. Cindy Swartz
 Girls StateDeedy Harrell
 Junior Activities.....Kalyn Slagle
 Poppy.....Cathy Hedges

SUPPORT COMMITTEES

Awards & Recognition .Linda Brock
 Convention9th District
 Credentials.....Phyllis Jones &
 Sabrina Brown Putney, Co-Chairs
 FinanceSusan Hall, Chair
 Ruth Ann Shelby & Sarah Zingarelli
 Human Resources.....Sheila Tinsley, Chair
 Gabriele Barnett & Pam Eckler
 Leadership/Yearbook...Gail Ramey
 MembershipPam Eckler
 Past President Parley & Member of the Year
 Cheryl Jackson-Sinkler
 Poppy Anchor11th District
 Launching.....1st District, Unit 184
 Orders.....Patty Hawkins
 Public Relations.....Courtney Waybright
 ResolutionsDr. Joann Meadows
 Risk & ComplianceKathy Merritt, Chair
 Anitia Owens & Lisa Marie Papp
 Scrapbook.....Melinda Gaskins
 Unit Development & Revitalization
 Gail Ramey & Pam Eckler, Co-Chairs
 Jennie Chandler



Cheryl Waybright

President 2024-2025

#AMPUPMISSION

The time for Giving Thanks and spending time with family both at home and at our Posts/Units is upon us. **I give thanks for all our leaders and members in the Department of Georgia who are energetically taking time from their personal and work lives to volunteer in the many ways we do to #AmpUpMission and serve our Veterans, Active Duty and their families, the children and youth in our communities and all others in need of our collective support as we step joyfully forward IN SERVICE, NOT SELF.** I ask that all our members first act in self-care and get rest, which is critical to fending off illness. Please pace yourself as you step through the next two months of high activity!

THANK YOU to everyone who attended the Fall Conference, and I especially thank all who presented about committees, districts, and our leadership workshop training sessions. It was a very energetic event focused on mission, networking, and learning. Conference proceedings are being developed to share the materials for those that were not able to attend.

MISSION! All committee chairs are available to assist you as our subject matter experts. It feels like we just finished the fall round of zoom meetings and the invitations to the winter sessions starting in January are beginning to arrive. All members are encouraged to join committee Facebook pages to stay up to date on what is happening and gain tips to better implement the committee’s purpose.

Thanks to all of those who have renewed your membership and those who are actively recruiting new and rejoining former members. I appreciate all your efforts to keep hitting our goals – Department at 75% by Pearl Harbor Day and 85% by Ground Hog day – see the Membership Challenge [HERE](#)

Please reach out with any question – no matter position, level, or location – I am here to serve **you**. Just ask.

Cheryl Waybright

404-625-6708 ★ Cheryl@ALAGeorgia.com

KEY DATES

FIRST OF EVERY MONTH
IS **BE THE ONE** DAY!

EVERY FRIDAY IS **RED** Shirt Friday
(Remembering Everyone Deployed) Wear Red!

November 2024 (Click the hyperlinks for more info.)

- [National Veterans & Military Family Month](#)
- [Warrior Care Month](#)
- [National Family Caregivers Month](#)
- Holiday Meals for Military Families with Operation Homefront
- Native American Heritage Month (American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month)
- 16..... ALA National Mission Training – **Hit the Link!**
<https://member.legion-aux.org/meetings/mission-training/>
- 28..... Thanksgiving Day
- 30..... **American Legion Day at the Georgia Festival of Trees**

December 2024

Holiday Meals for Military Families with Operation Homefront

Universal Human Rights Month

- 1..... Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary) Birthday
- 3..... International Day of Persons with Disabilities
..... #Giving Tuesday
- 5-8..... **Visit by the 2025-2026 Candidate for National Commander**
- 7..... Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 14..... Wreaths Across America Day
- 15..... Bill of Rights Day
- 16..... U.S. National Guard Birthday (1636)
..... Desert Storm (Persian Gulf) began (1991)
- 20..... United States Space Force (USSF) Birthday
- 25..... Christmas
- 25..... Hanukkah
- 26..... Kwanzaa
- 31..... New Year's Eve

January 2025

- 1..... New Year's Day
- 6..... World Day of War Orphans
- 15-18 National Commander Visit**
- 17-20. SAL Annual Meeting and Polar Plunge**
- 20..... Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday

February 2025

Americanism Month

Black History Month

- 1..... National Freedom Day (1865)
- 2..... Groundhog Day (85% Membership Goal!)
Army Nurse Corp (1901)
- 3..... Four Chaplains Day (1943)

SECRETARY/ TREASURER

Patty Hawkins



WOW, It's the middle of November already! The Holidays will be here before we know it.

I have sent checks received to our dedicated VAVS Reps for them to get the things they need for our Veterans stocking stuffers. If you haven't sent in your Christmas Assessment Obligation into the department, please do so!

Christmas gift shops will start soon.

- Judy Lively, VAVS Rep for Atlanta December 2 – 5
- Miriam Stein, VAVS Rep for Augusta Uptown & Downtown November 29 – December 4
- Jean Graham, VAVS Rep for Dublin will be December 6 - 7

The money received for the Gift Shops has been sent out to the Reps. so they can start on their shopping. Please send your donation to the office, so it can be sent to the VAVS Rep that handles the hospital your unit is assigned to. The sooner we receive it, the VAVS Reps can get their shopping completed. Let's see if we can really show up to make this a Wonderful Christmas for our Veterans who have served us over the years.

How many things have you checked off your Unit's to do list?

- Membership Dues:** All Department, District and Unit Officers should have paid their 2025 membership dues by now.
Please as leaders, LEAD THE WAY and renew now!
- Obligations:** **Please don't wait, send them now!**
- Volunteer Hours:** It doesn't hurt to start collecting hours and information for impact and year end reports now going back to May 1. We are half way through the reporting year!
- Compliance Items:** Has your unit filed your 990 form? Check your fiscal year, if it ends June 30, the due date is November 15! Have you updated your filing with the Georgia Secretary of State to include your new officers?

Remember this is not just one person's responsibility to take care of unit business. It takes all the officers and volunteers to get it done. We are there to help each other.

Thank you, unit leaders and members, for all you do!

The joy of brightening others' lives is for me the magic of the holidays.

Patty Hawkins

678-289-8446 ★ secamlegaux@bellsouth.net

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

January 11 Unit 233, Loganville
 February 8 Unit 160, Smyrna
 March 8 Unit 172, Warner Robins
 March 22 Unit 135, Savannah
 April 12 Unit 30, Albany

ALL SESSIONS: Registration begins at 9:30 am, the program starts at 10:00 am.

All the Leadership Workshop topics were woven into the agenda of the Fall Conference and may be included in the Spring Conference. Do not miss the change to network and learn!

NATIONAL MISSION DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

Please make plans now to attend the **National Mission Development Training**. The closest to Georgia is in Nashville on Saturday, November 16, 2024. This is a fantastic opportunity to gain experience from National leaders and network with other leaders around the nation. The link for the details is <https://member.legion-aux.org/meetings/mission-training/> Other Dates and Locations are January 25th Des Moines, and February 1 in Las Vegas or Boston.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Remember, useful information is available at the National ALA Academy. Have questions? Review one of the sessions on the subject you are interested in.



ALA Academy

The ALA Academy provides tools to members to help grow the Auxiliary's mission, and the organization as a team.

<https://member.legion-aux.org/member/online-training>

First Vice President – LEADERSHIP

Gail Ramey



Hello Everyone,

We had an exciting time at Fall Conference. Those who did not make it missed a great two-day workshop where each Department Chairperson spoke on their subject matter. We also covered all the leadership workshop sessions during the fall conference.

I had the honor of representing ALA Georgia in the Georgia Veterans Day Association parade on Saturday, November 9th. Madam President was out of town and asked if I could stand in for her. It was a great honor and the parade was wonderful. I rode in a beautiful Corvette and sat at the reviewing stand next to Commander Fultz to watch the parade. It was amazing to see so many Jr. ROTC programs represented. It does my heart good to see these young people who will be our future leaders. On Saturday evening I was honored to represent the Department at the Post 233 Anniversary Dinner. Quilts of Honor presented two quilts. It is very touching to see these quilts presented. See photos later in this newsletter.

Our Leadership Workshop in Thunderbolt on October 19th went very well. We had opportunity to answer many lots of questions and Pam Eckler was able to work with a membership chair who was totally against using ALAMIS, who, by the end of lunch, committed to sign up for full access. To the left is the list of the workshops that are coming up. **Please remember, every workshop is open to every member no matter where you live or what your role in the Unit happens to be.**

National Mission Development Training is Saturday November 16 in Nashville. Several Georgia members will attend. I will share information about the training in the December newsletter. If you missed registering for the Nashville training, the link, dates, and locations for other options are to the left.

Don't forget about the ALA Academy training. The link is to the left, log in (click on EVENTS, ALA ACADEMY). Many wonderful training sessions to help you #AmpUpMission and lead your units are available for FREE. Please take advantage of them.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. If you call and I don't answer, please leave a message and I will get back to you. You can also email me at leadership@alageorgia.com

Gail Ramey

770-262-2524 ★ leadership@ALAGeorgia.com

STAY CONNECTED

DEPARTMENT WEBSITE:

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

- Need a form?
<https://www.aladdeptga.com/forms-1>
- Need to find a department leader?
https://www.aladdeptga.com/about_us
- Or a department committee chair?
<https://www.aladdeptga.com/committee-chairpersons>
- ...or Department Governing Documents?
<https://www.aladdeptga.com/governing-documents>

GEORGIA GIRLS STATE

www.georgiagirlsstate.org/

DEPARTMENT PUBLIC FACEBOOK PAGES

Follow both!

<https://www.facebook.com/ALADeptofGA>

<https://www.facebook.com/ALAGeorgiaPresident/>

DEPARTMENT PRIVATE FACEBOOK GROUP

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

In this group you can ask questions and post information about your unit and districts.

DEPARTMENT EMAILS

Secretary/Treas.: secamlegaux@bellsouth.net

Membership Clerk: amlegaux@bellsouth.net

President: Cheryl@ALAGeorgia.com

Leadership: Leadership@ALAGeorgia.com

Membership: Membership@ALAGeorgia.com

Historian: Historian@ALAGeorgia.com

Chaplain: Chaplain@ALAGeorgia.com

PR: PublicRelations@ALAGeorgia.com

Newsletter: Department@ALAGeorgia.com

NATIONAL ALA TOOLS

American Legion Auxiliary National Website

<https://www.legion-aux.org/home>

ALA MEMBER Website

<https://member.legion-aux.org/>

ALA BLOG <https://www.legion-aux.org/blog>

Serving the ALA Mission through Our Programs – Program Engagement Plans:

<https://member.legion-aux.org/member/program-engagement-plans>

Second Vice President - MEMBERSHIP

Pam Eckler



Congratulations, Department of Georgia American Legion Auxiliary! Georgia was one of several states in the Southern Division to meet the Division's membership goal of 50% by Veteran's Day. The next goal is the National's asking all Departments to be at 75% by Pearl Harbor Day, which is December 7th.

Currently we are seventy-six members behind where we were last year, but I believe we can catch up and move ahead. My question is, do you believe it? President Theodore Roosevelt is quoted as saying, "Believe you can and you're halfway there." I believe all our Units can make it to 85% by Groundhog Day. All we must do is try! Remember, if each of our members enrolls a new member, we can double our membership in a brief period. New members are out there, we must explain the benefits of belonging to the Auxiliary. Now is a wonderful time to find new members as we approach our holiday events.

Bring a few membership applications with you when you are conducting your holiday events. There is always someone that does not know what the ALA does throughout our communities. Everyday someone is retiring and looking for something to do that is meaningful, so why shouldn't it be the Auxiliary? In addition, during these events, have your "Renew Crew" ready to help your current members renew their memberships.

If you have ALAMIS full access, have your laptop handy so you can renew your members on the spot, or set aside some time during your next Unit meeting to renew memberships. If you do not have ALAMIS full access, now is the time to sign up and save your Unit money. In addition to saving money, you will save your Membership Chair a lot of time, and most of us realize how valuable our time really is.

I sincerely hope all of you have a Thanksgiving full of family fun, friendship, and lots of laughter.

Pam Eckler

670-780-8622 ★ membership@ALAGeorgia.com

**MEMBER
ENGAGEMENT**

YOUTH OUTREACH

It's never too early to start recruiting Girls for **Girls State**. A big tip is to coordinate **within units** to recruit AND promote **ALL the ALA programs for youth** when visiting the schools. Check out the [Unit information](#) available on the Georgia Girls State Website. <https://www.georgiagirlsstate.org/>

Americanism Essay Contest: 2024-2025 topic is **"What Does America the Beautiful Mean to Me?"** This is regarding veterans and our military. Visit the National website's Americanism page for information.

<https://member.legion-aux.org/Member/Committees/Americanism/Get-Involved-Americanism> or <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/americanism>
Stay tuned to the Americanism Chair's info for Georgia due dates.

The Poppy Poster Contest: The contest rules are available at: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Poppy-Poster-Contest>
Stay tuned to the GA Poppy Chair's info for Georgia submission guidelines.

Oratorical Contest: Information can be found here: <https://www.legion.org/get-involved/youth-programs/oratorical-contest>. Confirm with your post and district commander for contest dates. Girls State recruits are perfect candidates!

Scholarships: The National Scholarships are now open. All the American Legion Auxiliary Scholarships are now open. Applications are submitted online at: <https://www.legion-aux.org/scholarships>. Have our youth apply by March 1, 2025. More information is at <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/education/scholarship-resources>

There are two Georgia Scholarships. Information about them can be found in the policy for scholarships at this [LINK](#) or at <https://www.aladepgtga.com/governing-documents>.

HISTORIAN Debbie Hoopingarner

At the Department Fall Conference it was an immense pleasure to meet the National Historian Dara Oliver.

I was privileged to present to Dara a copy of the book containing both "Georgia's Participation in the World War and the History of the Department of Georgia the American Legion" by Joseph M Toomey and "The History of Georgia the American Legion Auxiliary" by his wife, Maude Lynch Toomey. The book will be placed in the National Archives, formerly known as the National Cavalcade of Memories.

The information contained in this book shows the importance of keeping a written history. For instance: The first Georgia Unit to receive their charter on January 8th, 1921, was formed in Americus, Georgia. If you research the Post in Americus, you find American Legion John D. Mathis Post 2 Inc. No Auxiliary Unit exists there today. There is a photo of President Jimmy Carter wearing his cover with the number 2 Americus, Georgia. Imagine someday in the future there could be a picture of a Georgia Auxiliary member that is also President of the United States.

Maude Lynch Toomey was the Department of Georgia Historian 1925, 1926, and 1927 and was the 11th President of the Department of Georgia installed in LaGrange in 1931. Her name lives on in the annual "Toomey Award."

It was at the urging of the Department of Georgia in 1924 that the National ALA Department Senior History Contest was established to recognize the Department who submitted the Best History Book.

Thank you also to Nancy Kunz, 9th District President for submitting the information and photographs from the District 9 Ranger Appreciation Event.

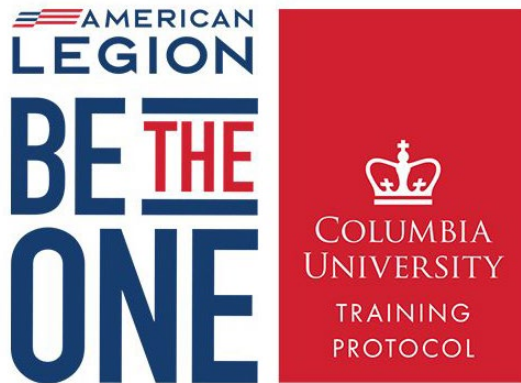
Contact me any time.

Debbie Hoopingarner

317-753-3394 Historian@alageorgia.com



BE THE ONE TRAINING



As part of The American Legion Be the One mission to end veteran suicide, the Legion has joined forces with Columbia University to develop training for those who want to learn more about interacting and responding with veterans who may be in crisis. After the training, participants will be able to:

- Use the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale to determine at-risk individuals.
- Identify risk factors and warning signs
- Outline the types of suicidal ideation and four behaviors that indicate imminent risk.
- Communicate effectively with an individual who may be at risk of hurting themselves.
- Members of The American Legion Family are encouraged to take part in this training and share the training with their communities. Check back to this page or subscribe to **The American Legion Online Update newsletter** to receive information about new training opportunities as they become available.

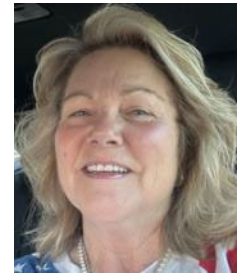
Register to attend an online session at this link: <https://www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one/be-the-one-training>

IMPORTANT NOTE: All attendees will be asked to complete an online survey before the class and upon completion. These surveys help track the effectiveness of the training and allow us to plan for future development.

See leadership video [HERE](#)

CHAPLAIN

Gloria V. Chambers



The season of thanks is here. The fall conference has come and gone.

Let us now reflect a moment on the “calm after the storm.” Here comes the sun and I say, it’s all right.

Storms may come and go in our day to day lives , but we have so much to be thankful for each day. Some are still gathering the pieces, trying to return to normal, questioning, “what is normal,” “will things ever be the norm again.”

Honestly , and in my heart, I know some will never know life as it was before. I plead for us all to continue our prayers for those affected so greatly, with losses beyond what we may even know. As communities race to seek and find a trace of familiarity back in their lives. GRACE falls and wraps its arms around them, bringing calm, peace, and love.

My heart is full of stories I have read, the love and passion people , churches and corporations have done as example of the purest love for our neighbors in these states so greatly affected.

Please know after every storm, there is a sunrise, gentle warm rays upon the faces of despair, like hands reaching out to help, slowly spreading its glow like that of a candle, REMINDING us that beauty is never gone for long. Love people from your heart, not from your mood and needs. Wishing you all a season filled with joy, love, and abundant blessings!

Our continued prayers for Susan Hall, Sabrena Putney, our Dept. Leaders , those who need physical healing, emotional support, financial needs . God bless America.



I close with this verse of scripture. “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” Psalms 119:105 Follow this Light and follow Him-for He knows the best way for you to go.

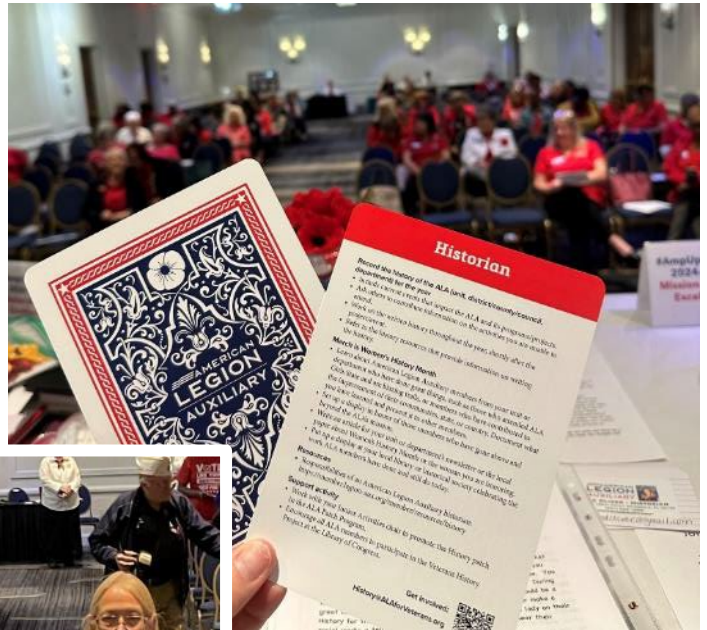
A heart for godliness,

Blessings to all,

Gloria Chambers

912-390-2488 ★ chaplain@ALAGeorgia.com

FALL CONFERENCE



#AMPUPMISSION

The American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Georgia

3035 Mt Zion Road
Stockbridge GA 30281

678.289.8446

www.aladepgta.com
www.facebook.com/groups/alaga

2024-2025 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT CHERYL WAYBIGHT

FALL CONFERENCE



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ALA CHALLENGE DECK

<https://www.legion-aux.org/ALA-Challenge-Deck>

The ALA Challenge Deck is designed for American Legion Auxiliary members to collaborate, brainstorm, and execute the programs of the Auxiliary in an engaging, team-focused way. This 46-card deck includes descriptions and links to additional resources for all the ALA's programs including one designated for the Veteran Projects Fund, a granting initiative within the ALA Foundation. The Veteran Projects Fund is the ALA's national focus for the 2024-2025 administrative year.

Each card includes examples on how Auxiliary members can engage with a particular program, as well as a QR code that links to the website or Program Engagement Plan. Many programs have multiple cards in the deck.

TIPS TO THRIVE IN 24/25

DO NOT BE AFRAID OF CHANGE. Embrace change to improve engagement and give more power to our members in SERVICE NOT SELF. Change drives unexpected results. On the flip side, if your unit, district, or committee believes past results are acceptable, don't change anything. That sometimes is called a plan to fail when the "same old same old" is used to try to achieve different to unexpected results.

As a nation we are facing a change in administration. Some are embracing it, and some are loudly opposed. Perhaps that is happening at our unit, district, or event department. We all know that negativity and working around leadership and protocols never solves anything but instead brings an organization down. Respecting leadership protocols, embracing change and innovative ideas or ways of doing things requires aligning values, being aware of what motivates every volunteer, common goals, and COMMITTEED ACTION where everyone is pulling together.

#AMPUPMISSION

LEGION FAMILY NEWS

American Legion Grass Roots Action Center can always use the help of each member. Go to this website <https://www.voterveice.net/AmericanLegion/home> and view key legislation, sign up for alerts, and reach out to your US government leaders and let your voice be heard. You may report the time you take to advocate for veterans on your personal impact report you submit to your unit.

Expanding VA access to health care. On November 11, 2024, "the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it is proposing to eliminate copayments for all VA telehealth services and establish a grant program to fund designated VA telehealth access points in non-VA facilities, with a focus on rural and medically underserved communities. The proposed grant program, called Accessing Telehealth through Local Area Stations (ATLAS), would provide funding to organizations — including nonprofits and private businesses — to offer veterans comfortable, private spaces equipped with high-speed internet access and the technology to meet with VA providers remotely. Grants would also provide designated funding to train on-site personnel to support the program." Read [MORE](#).

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA.

December 14 is coming up fast! For more information check out the information at this link. <https://www.legion-aux.org/Wreaths-Across-America>



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www.facebook.com/groups/alaga

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

November 18-22, 2024: American Education Week happens the week prior to the week of Thanksgiving. Each day of the week has its own theme, during which we celebrate our public school community. Festivities honor the team of people who work in our nation’s public schools, everyone from the bus driver and classroom teacher to the cafeteria worker and administrative staff, plus countless others.

Each day is celebratory. Monday is Kickoff Day; Tuesday is Family Day; Wednesday is Education Support Professionals Day; Thursday is Educator for a Day and Friday is Substitute Educators Day. Suggested activities can be found at <https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/conferences-events/events/american-education-week-november-18-22-2024>



GEORGIA Festival of TREES

What:
The American Legion Day

When:
November 30, 2024

Where:
Gas South Convention Center

Presented by Wellcare

Call 866-734-WELL (9355) for your complimentary ticket.

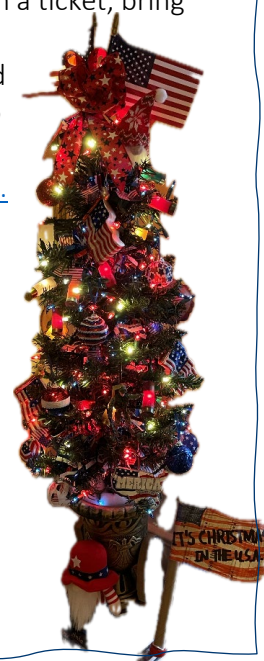
THE PINK PIG IS A TRADEMARK OF MARY'S.

LEGION FAMILY DAY AT THE GEORGIA FESTIVAL OF TREES SATURDAY, NOV. 30

WellCare is presenting a special day of activities FREE for the entire American Legion Family. The Pink Pig is back and the new location for the Georgia Festival of Trees is the **Gas South Convention Center**. Not only “FREE ADMISSION,” but the day will include an engaging agenda of activities for veterans, active duty, and their families.

All members of TAL, ALA, SAL, and the Riders are eligible to obtain free tickets. Even if you do not obtain a ticket, bring your membership card and you will be admitted at no charge. See info to the left and at <https://gafestivaloftrees.org/>

The Georgia Legion Family has been invited to decorate a patriotic tree. Decorating (with poppies) will occur on November 21. If you are interested in donating materials or time, reach out to our Department President.



AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

Below is a photo of participants at the Leadership Workshop held October 19, 2024 at Thunderbolt Unit 184.

Want to be featured on this page? Send information before the 5th of the month to Department@alageorgia.com or to PublicRelations@ALAGeorgia.com. Include short write up and a picture.



Left, Gail Ramey, 1st Vice President represented the Department at the Georgia Veterans Day Parade and



Program.

Left: at the Post 233 Anniversary Dinner, two quilts were presented by Quilts of Honor...

PRESS RELEASE:
GEORGIA AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY - JUNIOR
LEADERSHIP CAMP
POST 82: ELLIJAY ★ MAY 31 - JUNE 6, 2025

For the 12 past years The Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Georgia has conducted “Junior Camp” for the Sons members 8-17 years old. In 2021 the camp included Junior Members from the American Legion Auxiliary. The camp is known as the **Georgia American Legion Family - Junior Leadership Camp** and includes SAL and ALA Junior members 8-17 years old.

The camp is conducted at a different American Legion Posts around the state and members of the Legion, SAL and ALA serve as counselors, instructors, and staff.

The Campers receive instruction in the proper retirement of the American Flag, folding the Flag properly and attend classes in Americanism, parliamentary procedure, leadership, and Legion Family History.

The SAL and The ALA juniors also conduct their annual convention and installation of officers while at camp. The SAL Commander and ALA President have pledged to attend.

Campers are given time to fish, play games, and interact with each other, all under the supervision of the staff. The staff must undergo background checks and take a class in Risk assessment and awareness of child abuse symptoms.

Several of the past campers have gone on to Post/Unit, District and Department positions

Applications to attend as a “camper” or as a staff member are available on the SAL Georgia website at this link: <https://www.salgeorgia.org/> (bottom right).

The 2025 Camp will be held at Post 82 in Ellijay; May 31 - June 6, 2025

At one camp, several Juniors, (SAL and ALA) performed the Flag retirement so well they were commended by our National SAL Vice Commander who was visiting. It is rumored that a post was conducting a flag retirement ceremony, and the Juniors spoke up and told them they were not doing it right. The Juniors were told “ok if you can do better go ahead.” So, the Juniors took over and conducted the entire ceremony from memory. **That** is what we are trying to instill in youth. **We must protect and nurture this nation’s greatest natural resource; Our Children.**

Please promote this camp to all your members and, recruit a few new members while you are at it.

All forms are available on the Georgia Website: <https://www.aladepgga.com/>



*Georgia American Legion Family**Junior Leadership Camp**May 31—June 5, 2025**Post 82 Ellijay GA*

The leadership camp is a 6 day learning and social camping event for Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary junior aged 8-17. Campers have the opportunity to learn about the American Legion Family and to meet other juniors from across the state and win awards for their efforts.

Campers will have time for team events and some field trips to educational and fun places.

The camp is held on the first week of June annually and the location moves around the state to give maximum exposure to the youth.

Registration cost is \$25.00 per camper, which covers their shirts, meals, as well as all materials and entertainment.

The staff is composed of Legion, Auxiliary and Sons members from all over the state

Safety is number One and the staff is always vigilant

In past Years Campers have learned how to fold the American Flag, how to properly raise and lower it as well as the pledge of allegiance and proper flag retirement.

One group, all from the same post, were invited to the post flag retirement ceremony and commented that the post was doing it wrong. They were told "ok let's see you do it". To the astonishment of all, 4 juniors, all former campers, took over and performed the ceremony flawlessly.

Campers learn the history of the Legion and Auxiliary as well and a basic understanding of how they operate. Some campers have gone on to become officers at the post, district and State levels in the Legion Auxiliary and the Sons.

The Junior Leadership Camp is an opportunity to teach our younger members about the organizations and to develop them into future leaders

The Camp is a chance to promote or greatest Natural resource—Our Youth !!

During the camp week the SAL Juniors and the Junior Auxiliary hold their annual state level conventions. Campers learn how to do their campaigns and the proper procedures for conducting a meeting and the nomination and election of officers. The newly elected Junior Commander of the Sons and the Junior President of the Auxiliary will serve on the Jr Camp Committee for the following year.

We have had Guest speakers from the Police, Fire and Emergency services as well as some National Guests from the SAL, Legion and Auxiliary.

*Americanism**National Security**Children and Youth**Veterans Assistance*

Will always be stressed at the camp

Certified LifeGuard / Instructor is on hand



Campers may have the opportunity to earn the SAL 5 Star medal:

PATRIOTISM: Love of the flag; love of country

CITIZENSHIP: individual obligation of citizenship

DISCIPLINE: Respect for and obedience to rules

LEADERSHIP: Participation in group activities, L

LEGIONISM: knowledge of The American Legion



For more information and /or applications

CONTACT:

Clifford Hall at cliff.Hall@salgeorgia.org

Brian Shedd at vonbrian71@yahoo.com

Or visit our SALgeorgia.org website

Junior Leadership Camp Packing List 2025

- Medication (if you are taking any)
- One large Ziploc Bag (for the medication)
- Chigg-Away or other Insect repellent (with DEET)
- Personal Hygiene Items (**Deodorant**, tooth brush, tooth paste, etc.)
- Clothing and underwear for 7 Days
- Towel (2) Wash cloth (1)
- Swim Trunks \Swim Suits
- Pillow
- Sleeping Bag or Bed roll (Blanket and sheets)
- Tent Recommended (group tents will be available]
- Rain Poncho or Rain Coat (Umbrella)
- Flash Light or lantern and spare batteries

Suggested Optional Items

- Wet Wipes (Large Pack)
- Fishing pole and tackle
- River Shoes (Beach shoes)

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Georgia Georgia Girls State

Georgia Girls State Bulletin

November 2024

Georgia Girls State will be held in Valdosta, Georgia at Valdosta State University June 8-13, 2025

QUALIFICATIONS: Interest in government, leadership, citizenship, honesty, scholarship, character, and completion of their junior year in high school.

ORIENTATION: Orientation should be a part of your Girls State plan so that the girls and their parents understand in advance what to expect upon arrival. Please call on a staff member or former citizen in your area to help with your orientation if help is needed.

PUBLICITY: Unit chairmen, be sure to contact local media for coverage as soon as your delegates have been selected. Many newspapers are willing to publish pictures and short articles about the program. Invite delegates to a unit meeting after the session to report to the unit.

****FEE:** Checks must be made out to Georgia Girls State and mailed to the Department Headquarters. **Send the fee of \$350.00** per girl to the American Legion Auxiliary Department Headquarters, 3035 Mt. Zion Road, Stockbridge, GA 30281 **before April 20, 2025** to assure space for your girls. Call the director for late payments of fees. Please DO NOT hold your unit check for fees just to make sure your girls are attending before paying. This really hurts our program. Any money that is sent in helps Georgia Girls State even if your girls don't attend. No money is paid to the University until after Girls State. We only pay for those attending. If your girl backs out at the last minute, there are other worthy girls that the money can cover. It can also be a donation to the program to help cover other costs. We have expenses to pay before the session begins, so please do not hold the fees. Parents nor family members should not pay the fee for their daughter.

DISTRICTS: Each district is to elect a counselor and pay a \$350.00 counselor fee. Please notify the director upon the election and have the counselor send the director a resume. Even if your district doesn't elect a counselor, the fee is still to be paid. I need counselors: Please contact me if interested!!

APPLICATIONS: The 2025 online application will be available on the website on March 1, 2025. The applications will be entered by the tech staff. The pre-applications will be filled out online so there's no printing and filling out the document. Either the student or the Unit Girls State Representative can fill it out online. This will alleviate many mistakes and eliminate problems with illegible handwriting. Please make sure the information is input correctly. Keep a copy of your girls' contact information for future correspondence with the girls.

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

EMAIL: Georgia Girls State email: georgiagirlsstate@gmail.com for the director, Deedy Harrell

PHONE number: Deedy 770-337-7997 Call or text; the Assistant Director, Gabriele Barnett: Cell 706-951-3906 (call or text) or email: barnettgabriele@hotmail.com Application manager: Cynthia Orms: (478) 232-4831
georgiagirlsstate.tech@gmail.com

APRIL 20, 2025 Checks for \$350.00 per girl due to the Department Headquarters.

May 10, 2025 Complete online applications

June 8, 2025 Arrival at Girls State between 1:00 and 3:00 PM

June 13, 2025 Graduation at 8:45 AM and departure by 1:00 PM

Delays cause your girls to have difficulty in getting prepared for the program. If you find out that a girl is not attending after completing an application, please let us know. We make phone calls to all no shows, and it will help us if we can limit the number of calls necessary. Let us know even the last day.

Please join the Girls State Booster Club!! Call Pat Morgan (229) 561-4070 for details.

Deedy Harrell, Director

georgiagirlsstate@gmail.com

770-337-7997

#AMPUPMISSION

The American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Georgia

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www.aladepg.com
www.facebook.com/groups/alaga