Happy New Year ALA Family, We have so many things to be thankful for, 2019 left us full of wonderful memories. As we celebrated with the American Legion Family our centennial year and still celebrating our National President Nicole Clapp theme until our convention in Kentucky, “Celebrating a Century of Service” 2020 vision, let’s reflect on Why we Serve?

We had a fabulous December! **Week 1**- visited the VAMC Hospitals with our ALA National VP/VA & R Chair person - Kathy Daudistel opening of the Augusta gift shop. I was also able to visit Milledgeville, Dublin & Augusta gift shops. Later that same week, we met with The American Legion Family to meet with the Augusta VA Director and Chief of Staff. **Week 2**- Our National President, Nicole Clapp visit was amazing, from the day of arrival to the ending 9-13th A BIG Thank you to the traveling party, Driver, dual member- Sandra Jordan and Page - Sgt-at-arms Scarlette Campbell. When Madam President arrived, we greeted her at the baggage claim and hit the road running straight to Dept. Headquarters. There we met with the Mayor of Stockbridge and Board of Council for light refreshments and a presentation to honor a veteran, Jim Joyce for his Patriotism in the community.

**Day 1**- We met with the ATL Director Ms. Brown, toured the facilities. Thank you Dr. Lynch for a fabulous job! Lunch at Unit/Post 66 then ALR Director & 4th District Escorted us off to Fort McPherson where Mr. Miller & staff toured us around the Homeless Domiliary. We went back to the hotel and rested a bit, then off to a delicious dinner at Unit/Post 258. **Day 2**- ALR Troll, escorted us ½ way, joined by 11th District ALR to Augusta. We were greeted by a few of our ALA Dept. Officers. Chief Voluntary Service, Bob Frasier was our tour guide. We met with Director Mr. Jackson and visited the Spinal Cord Injury Unit with Chief SCIU Dr. Priebes. President Nicole had a exoskeleton robot walk to her down the hallway. Dr. Blanchard toured us through the Womens Health Clinic. Ms. Whitten, Supervisor of the Wellness Health Center shared the benefits of music, yoga and dancing, while Madam President Nicole showed off her line dance moves in the recreation therapy center for our Veterans. Madam President rode on the back of ALR Cindy’s bike to The Fisher House, it was awesome! We even signed up new members.

While on our way to lunch, Madam President Nicole asked if we could make a pit-stop to the Masters gate where she & Cornelius could take photos. There was no way that we said no, even though it made us 45 minutes late for the beautiful luncheon at Unit/Post 178. Before going to dinner, we checked into the hotel to rest a bit, Now off to dinner at Unit/Post 192 Evans, it was beautifully decorated with Poppy’s which complemented the evening.

**Day 3**- ALR 10th District escort us to Moina Michael gravesite in Monroe, where Unit 32 member Marcia Floyd shared the history of Monia Michael. After hearing the beautiful story, the National & Department President laid a wreath on Monia’s headstone. After leaving, we stopped by the Walton County Veterans memorial to take photos of Monia Michael and see the beautiful mural painting of Poppy field. Unit/Post 64 had a beautiful luncheon waiting for us, with christmas decorations, even had China plates. We noticed a beautiful aged Fire truck in the parking lot, before leaving, President Nicole asked if she could take photos sitting inside, of course we accommodated her. After lunch we toured the Walk of Heroes in Conyers with 10th District ALR & Robert Wilson directions. Awesome tour!

The evening at Blue Willow Inn in Social Circle was the highlight of the evening with The American Legion Family. Delicious Southern Style, all you can eat dinner, collard greens, fried green tomatoes, peach cobbler, just to name a few. We gave out certificates of appreciation, took plenty of photos, hugs and yes we shedded plenty of tears as we shared great memories in why we serve from the heart. It’s a reflection of who we are and what we do that matters. Looking forward to 2020 dedicated in” Service, not self, to our veterans, families & communities.

Thank you for a Fabulous Year! Valerie Brown-Debro ALA Dept President
2020 has arrived, Happy New Years!!

“In the New Year, may your right hand always be stretched out in friendship, never in want.”

The Annual Program Reports have been updated and are loaded on the website. The Due Date for Mid-Year is December 15th and May 1st 2020 for year end reports. Please take the time to read the report forms and make sure you send them to the Chairperson they should go to. It delays the process if you send them to the wrong place and then they have to get forwarded. All the Rules and Regulations for Awarding Department Trophies have been updated and is on the website.

The Department hosted our National President Nicole Clapp in December. It looks like a lot of fun was had, great southern hospitality from our Units and Posts. NP Nicole Clapp was a joy to be around and so down to earth. She enjoyed her visit to our beautiful State of Georgia.

For any Unit that wants ALA MIS access you have, until January 15th to get you money into the office. It is only $10 per person, for up to TWO members with Access. The form is on the website under Membership. Districts can also have access but ONLY for the District President. The fee is the same $10.

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. Please make every effort to attend at least one of these meetings.

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP FOR 2020

January 18 District 5 Unit 160 Smyrna
January 25 District 8 Unit 69 Alma
February 1 District 3 Unit 35 Columbus
February 8 District 2 Unit 30 Albany
February 22 District 6 Unit 172 Warner Robins
February 29 District 5 Unit 264 Mableton

Just a reminder we have had some Units to send in a $1 per member donation this year. This gesture has helped us very much. If possible please continue to help us out by sending the $1 per member.

Thank you!
I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends and received everything from Santa you wished for.

Congratulations to Units 312, 519, 23, 106, 264 and 332 for reaching their 100% Department Goal. I am so proud of the hard work and dedication of these units. Unfortunately we still have 8 units on zero. I encourage units to contact members who have yet to renew their membership. Also, try contacting former members. The personal touch is always welcome.

Remember – In order to be a “Member in Good Standing” dues must have been paid prior to December 31, 2019.

Our next membership Award goal is for the Recruit/Rejoin 5 on Presidents Day – February 17, 2020. Recruit 5 new Junior or Senior members or Rejoin 5 members who have not paid membership since 2017 and you will receive a special gift from the National Membership Chairperson. All forms must be received, verified and entered into ALAMIS by the Department prior to February 17th. The form can be found on the Department website and in this newsletter.

If I can assist you in any way, please feel free to contact me by email at pimorga@aol.com or at 2229 Johnson Short Rd., Quitman, GA  31643.

2nd Vice President/Membership
By Pat Morgan, Department 2nd Vice President

HISTORIAN CORNER
By Cheryl Jackson Sinkler, Department Historian

Well ladies a lot has been covered this first half of the year!! Installations, celebrations, fundraisers, VA hospital visits, collection of donations, visits with Veterans throughout the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, National Convention, 1st Department Conference, Wreaths Across America, Leadership Training sessions (10 completed), and most of all the visit of our National President Nicole Clapp. *What an exciting first half!!!* I hope you have documented all that has happened thus far.

I received several Mid-Year History reports. I was hoping for more but 1 is better than none. So, thank you to those who submitted their Mid-Year History reports. Although not submitted timely and you will not receive a certificate, I will still accept your history reports and file. However, there is still time to include your years history for your annual reports. Please, I encourage you to understand the importance of keeping a track of your Units history. We have new members have and will join and they may want to know about their Units history and if you have no record of your Unit. Where does this leave the new member? The history of your Unit is a major part of an Historian’s responsibility.

Listening to our National President Nicole Clapp’s remarks during her visit to Georgia were on mark and her remarks relates to every position no matter what you do in the organization. National President Nicole Clapp made a huge impact on many, when she stated your task should never feel overwhelming, and you should not feel in anyway stressed, and realizes we all have responsibilities in our personal lives as well and family is first. An example of this are our leadership training sessions. As a group working together, we try to engage all that are present and ensure we have loads of fun while giving members informative information regarding the American Legion Auxiliary. President Clapp’s statement applies to every position within the organization. Combine your positions with fun and let it enlighten not only you but others throughout the organization. I always say you are being watched, even if you don’t think so. Keep in mind no one is perfect! The skit we presented to the body at the Fall Conference referenced just this.

I come across several members in my travels whom I had the pleasure of meeting and getting to know. It has been a great experience. It’s a wonderful feeling when a member walks up to you and say, “I love your spirit” and my response to that member was, it doesn’t cost anything to be pleasant and respectful. Now, imagine she could have been a non-member who possibly have the qualifications to become a new member. Ere, the statement, you never know whose watching. Continue to represent yourself with dignity, respect and humbleness in which this is a characteristic of our founding history.

Cheryl Jackson-Sinkler
Historian, Department of GA
770-875-5987    cheryl.jackson08@yahoo.com

*Angels Working As One For Veterans*
THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAPLAIN - JANUARY 2020

It's been awhile since I've written anything here or elsewhere. The holidays are so busy, and full of family and friends gathering to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas. There was also a lot of sadness this past year. The loss of family and friends was clearly heavy on minds and hearts. I knew that in my heart they all were going home for Christmas. For me my strength came from knowing that not only were we celebrating the birth of Jesus, we were celebrating His life as well. Because Jesus loved us so much, He made a way for us all to be together again someday. What a tremendous blessing and comfort to me and others that also realized our loved ones would be waiting for us when our time here on earth is done.

And then the New Year rolls in...by the way did you make your 2020 resolutions? I actually made some this year and have a sense of renewed energy to accomplish my new goals. As a member of the American Legion, we should all make some resolutions to increase our knowledge of what this wonderful organization does and how we can spread the word. Do you know there are actually people out there who are interested in finding out about us?? Yeah, not everyone knows. Let's get out there and find these folks and bring them in so that we can grow stronger to be the best military organization to support our active, retired military, their families and our community. Be there for our veterans who need our support when they are hurting and need more than just a thank you and a hug. That sometimes is all it takes to make their day!

Have a great January! Let's get a renewed spirit to bring those together who need us and support them in every way we can! Be sure to take care of your health. You cannot accomplish the mission anywhere if you are not taking care of yourself. And know that you cannot do it all by yourself. Set priorities in your personal and Legion responsibilities. Learn to adjust when emergencies or other duties become more urgent. You and your units will be a lot happier and much more productive. And it is ok to say no...lol. (I have learned how to do this...finally!)

Let me leave with this verse - Philippians 1:9-10. "And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;"

---

**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. Let’s make them feel welcome!
UNIT REVITALIZATION

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE AUXILIARY?

We are always looking for new members. To better relate to a prospective member, we may want to do some research on why members join. Try answering the “Who, What, When, Where and Why” questions to help you recall why you joined the American Legion Auxiliary. Your unit can use these questions to survey your members and learn where your unit has succeeded and which areas need improvement. The responses can also provide a guide for recruitment.

1. When did you first hear about the American Legion Auxiliary?
2. Where did you hear it?
3. What attracted you?
4. Who did you connect with?
5. Why did you join and become active?
   a) Did you join to volunteer in service of others?
   b) Did you join to find out what YOU could GIVE to the Auxiliary?
   c) Did you join for recognition and power?
   d) Did you join for what YOU could get FROM the Auxiliary?

DO YOU KNOW ME?

If you were unable to attend Fall Conference, you missed an important skit. Your unit may have members who attend each meeting but no one pays attention to them. Everyone sits with their own friends and doesn't engage with these members. They may even offer to volunteer but are not chosen. So, why would they continue to be a member? Each unit member needs to ensure that all members feel welcome.

As suggested last month, sit next to someone unknown to you at the next meeting. Ask them why they joined the Auxiliary. Unit Presidents can ask a member in what programs they would like to volunteer. Don't have the same people do the same thing again and again. Let everyone try everything!

HOW TO BE A UNIT MENTOR

Mentoring is the art of teaching, counseling, listening to and advising others so that they can be successful. Units may want to consider asking knowledgeable members to become mentors to new or prospective members. A mentor provides encouragement and guidance and is enthusiastic about teaching others. A mentor is patient and understands that a new member may be hesitant and unsure of herself.

What can the mentor do?
- Sit with the new or prospective member during meetings and get to know her.
- Enlighten her about the Auxiliary mission, programs and volunteer opportunities.
- Introduce her to others, particularly the chairmen of any committees of which she might have an interest.
- Answer any questions she might have about procedures or protocol.
- Encourage her participation in Unit activities, projects and events.
- Follow-up if she misses a meeting or volunteer event. Let her know she was missed and remind her of future events. Remember, some members may not enjoy meetings but would love to use their time and talent to serve veterans and their families.
- Invite her to attend District and Department meetings and workshops.

Share what you know! Consider being a mentor and make your Unit more robust!

For God and Country, Sarah Zingarelli, chairman
DEPARTMENT SPRING CONFERENCE – DULUTH

March 20-22, 2020

HOTEL RESERVATION

Sonesta Gwinnett Place Atlanta
1775 Pleasant Hill Road, Duluth, GA 30096
770-923-1775

Guest Information:
Name: ___________________________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________________
City/State/Zip: ___________________________________________________________________
Phone: _________________________ E-mail: __________________________________
Post _______________ District ________________

Payment Information (Checks must be made out to the Hotel)
Check enclosed: (payable to: Sonesta Gwinnett Place Atlanta Hotel) for one-night deposit of $117.00) 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 must cancel your reservation, you must personally contact the hotel within 72 hours of check-in or you will be charged).

Hotel Information: The Sonesta Gwinnett Place Atlanta Hotel is a NON-SMOKING HOTEL!

Arrival Date: ___________ Departure Date: ___________ Number of People in Room: ___________

Please Check One:  □  King (one bed) $117.00  □  Double: (two beds) $117.00
*Price does not include taxes, fees, etc.

Do you require a handicap accessible room?  ______ Yes  ______ No
Name(s) of other(s) sharing room: _______________________________________________________

Please complete this form in full and return to: The American Legion, Department of Georgia
3035 Mt. Zion Road, Stockbridge, GA 30281

DEADLINE: Friday, February 7, 2020
Banquet and Registration Form

DEPARTMENT SPRING CONFERENCE
March 20-22, 2020: DULUTH, GA
SONESTA GWINNETT PLACE ATLANTA

Register EArLY to avoid the long lines and to SAVE money:
Pre-registration before February 7, 2020 <> $10.00
Registration on or after February 8, 2020 <> $20.00

The Commander’s Homecoming Banquet is Saturday evening 6:00 PM.
The cost of the Banquet is $42.00 per person
For Registration and or Banquet, make checks or money orders payable to:
AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA

Member Information (please print):
Name: ___________________________________________________________________
Address: ___________________________________________________________________
City / State / Zip: ___________________________________________________________________
Phone: _________________________ E-mail:  _____________________________________
Post: _____________         District: ___________________

Number Registering before February 7 _____ at $10.00 per person: _____________________
Number Registering after February 7 ____             at $20.00 per person: _____________________
Number attending Commander’s Banquet: ________at $42.00 per person: _____________________

Reserved Tables are available for parties of 10 people: Names are required.
PRINT THE NAMES OF ALL GUESTS YOU ARE PAYING FOR:
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Please complete and return this form via mail or fax to:
The American Legion, Department of Georgia
3035 Mt. Zion Road, Stockbridge, GA  30281
FAX: 678.289.8885

The Department Executive Committee (D.E.C.) will meet on Friday evening, 6:00 PM, March 19, 2020. If you are a member of
the DEC, you can check-in on the afternoon of March 19, 2020.

DEADLINE: Friday, February 7, 2020
2020

R/R 5 - Recruit & Rejoin 5

For members who recruit or rejoin five (5) or more junior or senior Auxiliary members into the 2020 membership year. Rejoined members must not have paid dues since 2017. **One entry per recruiter per deadline.**

Certified forms must be received at National Headquarters **no later than:**
Check one: _______Feb. 17th, 2020 _______June 14th, 2020

----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**CERTIFICATION FORM**

*Please type or print legibly*

Recruiter’s Name: ___________________________ Member ID#: ___________________________
Recruiter’s Dept: ___________________________ Unit #: _______ Email: ___________________________
Recruiter’s Address: ___________________________

Name of New and/or Rejoined members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Member ID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Certified by Department Secretary: ___________________________ Date: __________

Dept. Secretary printed name: ___________________________ Dept: _______
Dept Secretary Signature (required):

*1 certify that all 5 members are new in 2020 - or last paid in 2017 or prior and rejoined into the 2020 year. I’ve provided or verified member ID’s & that the form is filled out legibly & completely. DO NOT SEND INCOMPLETE FORMS or more than 1 form per recruiter.

Form must be received at National Headquarters by **Feb. 17th and/or June 14th, 2020** to be eligible! **Please have this form to your Dept HQ office no less than one week prior to the deadlines!**

Each recruiter will receive a special gift selected by the 2020 National Membership Chairman

**One award per award period per recruiter. Do not send multiple forms**
Please fill out ALL of the lines on the form completely & ACCURATELY (spelling & legibility of names is vital).

- Due to the volume of forms we get right before the deadlines, incomplete forms (WITH LESS THAN 5 NAMES) and those with misspelled/illegible names that cannot be verified in ALAMIS may not be processed and time constraints will likely prevent department or national staff from informing about the need for or requesting corrected information.

- REJOINS must not have paid since 2017 to count. A “rejoin” is someone who joins again after they’ve let their membership lapse more than 2 years. To rejoin, a unit should again verify the former member’s eligibility status (OR have her pay all of her back dues in lieu of doing so). Rejoins should not be entered as new members (even if changing units) - they keep their former member ID #.

- Someone renewing their overdue 2018 or 2019 dues does NOT qualify as a “rejoin”...but we do hope everyone checks in on these members and encourages them to renew their past due membership!

- NOTE THAT THE DEPARTMENT SECRETARIES MUST VERIFY & SIGN ALL OF THE FORMS. Allow ample time to get them to the Dept Secretary before each deadline. NEITHER NATIONAL NOR DEPT’S WILL ACCEPT FORMS AFTER THE DEADLINE.

- Dept Secretaries: Please do NOT mail forms after you’ve already scanned or faxed them. We just need them once!

- It is extremely helpful to the staff at National HQ if these forms are transmitted as frequently as possible (i.e. as a member gets their 5th recruit/rejoin or as soon as the department receives the form). National literally get hundreds at once near the deadlines.

- Please note...once a member (recruiter) has sent in their first “Recruit/Rejoin 5” form (or been awarded the 2020 10 x 10 Award which automatically qualified them for the first R/R 5 award period – they do NOT have to submit this form in addition to the 10x10 form), but goes on to recruit/rejoin others, they can start keeping track of & submit those additional people on one additional R/R 5 Award form for the June 14th deadline. Only one of each gift per award period per person.

- Multiple forms (from several members) can all be mailed in one envelope saving postage costs. Or, better yet, most departments happily accept scanned/emailed forms...or faxes if they have fax.

- The “Recruit/Rejoin 5” gifts may be mailed periodically as received or shortly after the end of each award period.

- Some sort of award will be offered each year....the annually updated forms are housed in the “Member’s Only” area of the ALA website on the “Membership Committee” page or you can request them from your department. Each year is a clean slate so members can earn them every year

- The “Recruit or Rejoin 1” and “Recruit 10” awards from previous years are discontinued/invalid.

Note that TAL /SAL members can earn this award for recruiting/rejoining ALA members, too. Share this with your Legion family.
9-11 ANGEL CARE BAGS FOR
HOMELESS FEMALE VETERANS
2019-2020 WISH LIST

PERSONAL ITEMS
• Tampons (plastic applicator, mixed strength) or sanitary napkins
• Facial wash, Daily mini pads, Body wash or soap or oil Wet wipes, face wipes, makeup remover wipes, Body mist or perfume, Lip gloss, lipstick or Chap stick or Neutrogena SPF 20 lip balm
• Deodorant (stick only) Toothbrush, Toothpaste, dental floss, Mouthwash, Body lotion,
• Good razors, shaving gel (non-aerosol), Baby powder, Nail file, clippers, Foot cream or powder
• Q-Tips, cotton balls, Eye drops, Hand sanitizer, Insect repellant, Band-Aids, Icy Hot pads or gel
• Neutral makeup, Eye shadow, YES, Brand Products! particularly facial cleansing & moisturize wipes

HAIR PRODUCTS
• Hair ties, Bobby pins, Clips, Comb, brush, Head bands, Bonnets, Shampoo & Conditioner, Mousse or styling gel, Moisturizing Hair oil, grease.

MISCELLANEOUS
• A token reminder of Seasonal holiday • Pens • Note Paper • Tote Bags • Purses
• Cards - Letters or notes Thanking them for their service
• Cross word puzzles - Deck of cards
• Pocket mirror
• Comfy black or brown soft socks/ footsies
• Teddy Bear

All items will be donated to our local Domiciliary & Shelter for Female Veterans.

STATISTICS: Homeless women veterans in Georgia slowly, steadily rise in numbers.
Georgia Homelessness Statistics. As of January 2018, had an estimated 9,499 experiencing homelessness on any given day. Female veterans are the fastest growing segment of the homeless veteran population. While the exact number of homeless female veterans is unknown, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires an annual count of homeless people in communities across the country known as the Point-in-Time Count. On a single night in January 2014, volunteers identified 4,722 female veterans representing 10 percent of the total homeless veteran population. The number of homeless female veterans has more than tripled since 2006 when 1,380 women were counted. Despite the fact that women veterans have not been treated equal, some say that they are more likely to be underemployed than their civilian counterparts, more likely to commit suicide, and more likely to end up homeless. Don't underestimate the POWER & STRENGTH OF WOMAN. We are the link that connects the bond. We can do all things through Christ Who strengthens us.
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 2020

January 1, 2020  New Year Day
January 20, 2020  Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 12, 2020  Lincoln’s Birthday
February 14, 2020  Valentine’s Day
February 17, 2020  Presidents' Day
February 26, 2020  Ash Wednesday
March 20th – 22nd, 2020  Spring Conference
                            Sonesta Gwinnett
                            DEC Thursday 19th 6:00PM
June 19th – 21st, 2020  Department Convention
                        Sonesta Gwinnett
                        DEC Thursday 18th 6:00PM

Happy 100th Birthday American Legion Auxiliary!!!!!
“A Century worth Celebrating”
NOVEMBER 10, 1919 - 2019
Still going strong 😊