

DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA AUXILIARY NEWS

American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Georgia, 3035 Mt Zion Rd, Stockbridge, GA 30281
www.galegionaux.org amlegaux@bellsouth.net 678-289-8446



A Word from the President

By Hilde Martin, Department President

To all my Auxiliary family

Here we are in the second month of our new year. What an exciting month so far and is promising to be more exciting in the coming weeks.

Many of our Units and Districts have put on a 4 Chaplains ceremony. I am sorry that I am unable to attend each one of them. I did attend the ceremony held the 4th of February in Douglasville and participated in part of the program. Thanks to Fae Casper and Mary Lepley. It was a great program and I am certainly glad I did not miss it.

Susie is still going full steam ahead with her workshops. Again, I am sorry I am not able to attend all of them due to other obligations. I did attend the one held in Brunswick in January. Please attend one of Susies workshops if it is anywhere near you. You will be more than glad you did. A tremendous amount of information is being shared with all participants.

And now of course, I think the most important date of February is rapidly approaching. Our National President Kris Nelson arrives at the Augusta airport around noon on February 20th. I know it is a short visit, but she will have time to visit two of our VA Hospitals and the new Fisher House. She will visit a couple of our Augusta Units as well. Hopefully you have received her full schedule by now, if not, please contact Patty and she will make sure you get one. Lets make it a truly unforgettable visit to Georgia for Kris. It would be super if many of our Units would send or bring gifts for President Kris. Georgia pecans, peanuts and other items are just an example. We are spending two nights at the Doubletree Hotel in Augusta. It is on Perimeter Parkway.

I had the honor to travel with American Legion National Commander from Albany to Thomasville and then on to my and the Department Commanders home Post 13 in Valdosta.

Thanks to the approximately 100 Legion Riders escorting us to each destination and arriving safe and sound. It is quite a sight to see travelling through the countryside with almost an endless stream of riders in front and back of the cars travelling in the caravan. It was a pleasure talking with Commander Fang Wong. All great times must come to an end. A special thanks to my 1st Vice President, Susie Mash, for representing me at the Units I was unable to attend.

I apologize for our monthly newsletter not being delivered as promised. It will be put out a lot sooner in the future. We all are aware that computers rule us and if they go on strike we are

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pretty much lost. The new system is still being learned by the office staff and they are progressing very well.

I did call a couple of District Presidents to find out why they still have some Units at "0". We need to be kept informed.

Sorry to let you know that Rosetta Thomas had to resign as one of my Sergeant-at-Arms due to illness. We send her get well wishes. I appointed Miriam Stein as her replacement and she did a wonderful job escorting me around on the Hospital Tour in Augusta.

Committee Chairmen, please get things ready for the reports to go into the Book of Reports. It will be time to submit them before you know it. Time is moving fast towards the end of our Auxiliary year.

Hope to see most of you at the Spring Conference in Marietta in March. Make your reservations with Mr Knox of the Legion as soon as possible. Don't forget that it will be the Homecoming Banquet for myself, Commander Youngblood and Commander Roberts.

Lets not forget our homebound and hospitalized Veterans. Perhaps make a visit to them on Valentines Day or anytime you have the opportunity.

Thank you to all of my Auxiliary Family for your service to our great organization.

Wishing each of you a very Happy Valentines Day.

TO SERVE OUR VETERANS WITH PRIDE - HONOR - STRENGTH

Secretary

By Patty Hawkins, Department Secretary

It's February, which will be a busy month getting ready for National President Kris Nelson's visit on February 20-22nd. I hope everyone who plans on traveling with her has made their hotel reservations with the Doubletree.

The Washington DC Conference (formerly Awareness Assembly) will be held in February 25 - 29th, 2012. Information on this can be found on National's website: www.alaforveterans.org

Our **Spring Conference is March 17 -18th** in Marietta, with the DEC meeting on March 16th @ 7pm. Please look on our website for the room reservation form that is to be sent to The American Legion Dept. Headquarters. The Homecoming Banquet form is also available @ www.galegionaux.org. Please make your reservations to attend the Homecoming Banquet to show support for our Auxiliary President. Also, don't forget you must pay the \$5 registration fee. The fee can be paid when you make your room reservations to the Legion.

It's time to save the date, so mark your calendar. The 2012 Department Convention will be held in Duluth June 22nd - 24th. We will be staying at the Marriott in Gwinnett. I hope to see everyone there. More information will be coming next month.

There are some Units that have not paid their Obligations, please give this your immediate attention. If you need any forms you can get them from the web site or call me. Remember to write one check for Obligations and one for Contributions, as they go into different checking accounts.

We are working on getting all the Annual report forms together to be handed out to all Units Presidents at Spring Conference. The deadline for these reports is May 1st. I hope everyone has been keeping track of all the work they have done. It is very important that we report all that our members have done. Georgia's Auxiliary does a great job supporting our veterans and we want to let everyone know it.

A poem for friends and family:

It is common misconception that love is developed with unconditional love and understanding. Well that is one kind of love. But how come there is often so much friction in our family relationships? People are always saying, "oh, my sister and I, we fought like cats and dogs". Friction in relationships is an opportunity to realize our differences and accept that although we can never fully understand each other, nonetheless we accept and love each other.

Special Project Office

By Judy Thompson, Special Project Office, Chairman

March 3rd is the deadline to mail all Liquor Basket raffle tickets to Judy Thompson. If not mail by March 3rd you can turn them in at Spring Conference to Judy. Let's get these tickets sold and into Judy.

1st Vice President / Leadership

By Susie Mash, Department 1st Vice President

February is here and we are getting to the end of the workshops. We held the 2nd District - Unit 30 Albany workshop on Feb. 4th and it was well attended, thank you 2nd District. The next will be Feb. 11th - 4th District - Unit 105 Fayetteville, Feb. 18th - 1st District - Unit 168 Hinesville, Mar. 3rd - 7th District - Unit 47 Calhoun. If you haven't already attended one please do. So for we have had 53 Units and 220 members attend the workshops and with great feedback. The workshops start at 10:00 am and run no later than 2:30 pm. The Unit will serve lunch and a light breakfast.

Please don't forget 15th of February your Year Books are due. You can find the rules on our Department web site. www.galegionaux.org for

We attended the "Mission Training Conference" in Mobile, Ala., January 21 - 22, 2012. It was very informative and I hope National will continue them. Just getting together with other Departments and having time to discuss the many new things being presented is a great learning experience to bring back to our Department.

Hope you had time to meet up with the National Commander's Visit the end of January. The Posts we attended were outstanding, we all had a wonderful time and needless to say the National Commander before he left was served Southern Hospitality more than once. Yes, we had Fried Chicken.

Please remember the National President Visit is the end of February, hope you can be with us to greet her with our Southern Hospitality. We will also be attending the Washington Conference the end of February, visiting our Senators and Congressmen to discuss the American Legion Veteran issues.

I want to wish each of you a Happy Valentine's Day; February is for the Four Chaplains', Lincoln's Birthday, Presidents' Day, Washington's Birthday and National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans.

For God and Country.

Silent Auction


By Barbara Shubert Special Project Chairman

PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT: SPRING CONFERENCE SILENT AUCTION: Anything you want to bring will be greatly APPRECIATED. Snacks such as brownies, cookies or cakes are great sellers. REMINDER: GREAT opportunity to share your ST. PATRICK ITEMS.....most important (share your extras or creations for our VETERANS acknowledgements).

DISTRICT PRESIDENTS: SPECIAL REQUEST: Would you please get two (2) VOLUNTEERS TO WORK a two hour shift at our silent auction. Please let me know by Friday morning if you will have volunteers and what shift: SATURDAY 8:00am - 3:00pm

TABLECLOTHS: RAFFLE TICKETS: \$1.00 EACH or 6 TICKETS for \$5.00.

Beautiful Pineapple design tablecloths HAND MADE by our GA ALA PRESIDENT HILDE MARTIN are being raffled off.

Hand CROCHET: one (1) long banquet size and (1) ROUND 

PINS: I have pins available now for order or we will be in the lobby area at the Marriott. You can call me at my home# 770.536.2809 or reach me on my cell 770.519.6446 or email me barbshubert@bellsouth.net The pin is PRESIDENT HILDE's beautiful EAGLE with a glowing BLACK background.

2nd Vice President/Membership

By Betty Grist, Department 2nd Vice President

We have 1 month to get to the next goal of 85% (due March 20th).

I was notified that we still have 17 Units with fewer than 10 members turned in. This is unacceptable at this time in America's current situation.

We reached the January goal before Christmas so I know we can do it. District Presidents and Unit Presidents, please contact your membership chairmen and ask them to contact the members and remind them what we stand for and ask them to pay their dues and get in there and help us. We all know that many of our older members can no longer work on the programs but their dues and support still help us to do our DUTY to help our veterans and service members so that they do not have to do without.

I feel that some of our members have lost their understanding of what the American Legion Family was founded on. Our servicemen and women are putting their lives on the line and their families are sacrificing their way of life so that we can be safe here in the United States. We are supposed to be here to help them and see that they come home to a better life and that their families do not suffer so much. Without our membership dues and support of our programs, this cannot be accomplished. Everyone get out there and work hard to get the membership in and support our programs.

God Bless America and the American Legion Family

NOTE: email address change nlgrist1937@tds.net



ATTENTION: Past President Parley Scholarship Raffle

All District Presidents will be getting Raffle Tickets to be distributed to each Unit to sell for a chance to win a \$100.00 bill. The \$100 bill will be given away at the Department Convention on June 23. These funds are for the Nursing Scholarship.

Please send your stubs & money to Patty Hawkins @ Department Headquarters 3035 Mt. Zion Rd., Stockbridge, GA 30281 by Monday, June 11, 2012. All checks should be made payable to ALA Dept of GA, earmarked PPP scholarship. Any questions contact Bettye D. Williams's hm# 229.432.9849 or cell# 229.349.1219

Historian

By Gabriele Barnett, Department Historian

Ladies, we are almost there. I hope everyone is recording their history. I know the Georgia Eagles have a lot to report. The Year-end-report forms will be given out at the Spring Conference. Remember, they are due to me not later than 1 May2012. The books are due not later than 9 June 2012.

Do you know your history?

This month we celebrate the Four Chaplains also referred to as the "Immortal Chaplains". They were four United States Army Chaplains who gave their lives to save other civilian and military personnel during the sinking of the troop ship USAT Dorchester on February 3, 1943 during World War II.

The four men were relatively new chaplains, who all held the rank of lieutenant. They included Methodist the Reverend George L. Fox, Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, Roman Catholic priest the Reverend John P. Washington, and Reformed Church in America minister Clark V. Poling. Their backgrounds, personalities, and faiths were different, although Goode, Poling and Washington had all served as leaders in the Boy Scouts of America. They met at the Army Chaplains School at Harvard University, where they prepared for assignments in the European theater, sailing on board USAT Dorchester to report to their new assignments.

The ship was en route to Greenland during World War II when it was torpedoed Feb. 3, 1943, and it sank in 25 minutes with 675 civilians and soldiers lost. They helped other soldiers board lifeboats and gave up their own life jackets when the supply ran out. The chaplains joined arms, said prayers, and sang hymns as they went down with the ship.

Be blessed, be safe and always remember our Veterans.

For God and Country

Chaplain

By Rosa Scott, Department Chaplain

Love & Unity

In the month February, we celebrate Love and Unity. One of the best examples can only be displayed here.



Four Chaplains and the Sinking of the USAT Dorchester

If you haven't read the story of the Four Chaplains it is worth reading and sharing with others.

Unity, Love and diversity at its finest . . . May each of us so live our lives in such a way that when the story is told it is with these examples.

For God and Country



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A Soldier's Prayer

Lord, wrap Your arms around me
 In this hostile, brutal place;
 Let me draw peace and comfort
 From Your restful, sweet embrace.
 Help me do my duty
 To uphold what is right;
 Give me strength and courage
 Each day and every night.
 Lord, hear this soldier's prayer
 To You in heaven above;
 Protect me with Your power,
 And sustain me with Your love.

By Joanna Fuchs



Attention:

The Department is in desperate need of a web master.
 If you know someone who is willing to volunteer and
 can do this please call Patty @ 678.289.8446.

**Membership Milestones
 (Formerly Target Dates) For Georgia**

Milestone 2: 70% January 26, 2012 REACHED
 Milestone 3: 85% March 20, 2012
 Milestone 4: 100% July 30, 2012

Calendar of Upcoming Events

February is Americanism Month

February 12, 2012	President Lincoln's Birthday
February 14, 2012	Valentine's Day
February 20, 2012	President's Day (Dept closed)
February 20 - 22, 2012	ALA National President Visit
February 22, 2012	President Washington's Birthday
February 25 - 29, 2012	Washington DC Conference (Formerly Awareness Assembly)
March 17 - 18, 2012	Spring Conference, Marietta
March 20, 2012	85% Membership Milestone Day
June 1 - 3, 2012	Junior Conference, TBA
June 10 - 15, 2012	Girls State, GSU, Statesboro, GA
June 22 - 24, 2012	Department Convention, Duluth, GA
August 24 - 30, 2012	National Convention, Indianapolis, IN