

# 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

First of all, a great big THANK YOU to everyone that attended the Fall Conference.

Timing in advance looks and seems so far away. But before we know it, the time has arrived and left so quickly. My time at the Conference just slipped away so fast. I had planned on sharing things that Patty and I got from attending the Presidents and Secretaries Conference in Indianapolis the week before the Conference. No matter where you go, someone always learns something new.

We all know now that National went up on senior membership dues by \$4.00 beginning with the Auxiliary year 2012–2013. National has not had an increase in dues in about 17 years.

Rumors have been circulating that the Southern Division Vice President can not come and visit a Department for any occasion. Yes, she can come, as long as the Department pays for all travel costs. That is a change from the past, when the Department paid only Hotel/Food/Local expenses.

Poppies. Funds from Poppy donations can not be used for postage to send packages to servicemen and women overseas. Items to put into the packages can most certainly be paid from Poppy funds. Also, for cards and packages going to wounded Veterans, postage can be paid from the poppy fund.

Our Department office must handle all records as "CONFIDENTIAL". Please, if you are visiting the Department do not go into the filing cabinets to look at records. You may ask Patty, our Department Secretary, to show you things that are not sensitive.

Please do not call our National Office with local problems. If it is a membership question, please call Krista at our Department Office. Please do not call Patty for questions or problems at the Unit or District level. First of all, take your Unit Hand Book or Auxiliary Policies and Procedures and read up on the problem. Most can be solved within the Unit or District. If need be, please call me, your Department President, and I will attempt to solve your problem or at best, recommend the next course of action.

Juniors are pre-senior Auxiliary members. According to

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From President Hilde Martin	1
Secretary	2
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President /Leadership	2
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President / Membership	3
Historian	3
Chaplain	4
VA & R	4
GA Girls State	5
Calendar of Events	6

National they are not allowed to have fund raisers for their own activities. All fundraisers have to fit in with the President's project. There is no honorary memberships within the Juniors.

District Presidents. We need your help with membership. Please review all your units and find out which ones are still on "0". If they are active, at least the officers should have paid memberships. Please get this information to Betty Grist, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice/Membership Chair.

I apologize to Mrs Betty Turner for not calling on her to give her report at the Fall Conference for the Resolutions Committee.

Thanks to Barbara Shubert and Judy Thompson for working so hard during the Silent Auction and Raffles. They raised quite a bit of funds for the Department and the Presidents project.

Hope I did not forget to cover something. I probably did, but there will be a letter next month. If I forgot something or somebody, please let me know.

Our National President, Kris Nelson, will be visiting our Department in February. More details will follow in next month's newsletter.

Please take time out to observe Veterans Day activities in your area. Take care of at least one veteran, every day. Wishing you a great Thanksgiving holiday. Remember to tell your children and grandchildren how it came about to have such a great family gathering.

TO SERVE OUR VETERANS WITH PRIDE – HONOR – STRENGTH

## Secretary

By Patty Hawkins, Department Secretary

Here we are in the month of November. Boy, time is flying by fast! The start of good smells coming from the kitchen and the beginning of family gatherings. We all have much to be thankful for.

While at the President/Secretary conference learned quite a few new things. One thing that might be of interest to everyone is starting with the 2013 year the membership cards will no longer have the number of years you have, but will have the year you became a member.

Kris Nelson, National President will be visiting Georgia on February 20, 2012. On February 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:30am – 11:30am there will be a visit to Uptown VA Medical Center, and then a visit to the Fisher House with the possibility of a Creative Arts Show. Lunch will be provided by Augusta Unit 63, which will include a Meet/Greet. Then off to the Georgia War Veterans Home to visit with the patients and a briefing with the Medical Staff between the hours of 2 – 3pm. Dinner will be provided by Augusta Unit 205 with a Meet/Greet. Kris will leave on the morning of February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please try to plan to attend one of these activities to show the National President a warm Georgia welcome. “Bless her heart”

What a great Fall Conference we had. Many things discussed and decisions made. With the Fall Conference behind us, we still have much work to get done. We have workshops scheduled and hope everyone takes the opportunity to go to at least one. You always learn something new at these workshops.

The Veteran Hospital Reps are gearing up for the Christmas Gift shops, be sure to Gloria Johnston section on this. Thank you Ladies for all that you do.

Don't forget Veterans Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>. I am more than sure there a lot of activities happening to show our appreciation to our Servicemen and Servicewomen. Thanks for our freedom may God bless and keep them safe.

May each and everyone have a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving.

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

By Susie Mash, Department 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

How time flies! Fall Conference has past, which I thought was a very good and informative Conference. Hilde, you did a great job!

This month we will honor our Veterans, Election Day, American Education Week and National Family Week giving thanks being with our families on Thanksgiving Day. Hope each and every one of you enjoy being with your family and have a Wonderful Day of Thanksgiving, not to mention the food and great deserts.

We have already held three workshops, Hiawassee Unit 23, Evans Unit 192 and Loganville Unit 233 with 102 members attending and 31 Units represented. As you heard at the Fall Conference, the workshops are very informative and we are told “Interesting”. Well! It's different, so you will have to attend one to find out for yourself. I want to thank the Past Department Presidents Nini, Gloria, Betty Turley, Department Officers and our Department Secretary for their assistance with the Workshops.

The workshops are posted on our Department Web Site on the Welcome page, just [click here](#) and you will be taken to the list of the Workshops with the locations.

Nov. 5 – 6<sup>th</sup> District – Unit 3 Macon  
 Nov. 12 – 5<sup>th</sup> District – Unit 29 Marietta  
 Dec. 3 – 3<sup>rd</sup> District – Unit 191 Ellaville  
 Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> District – Unit 515 Douglas  
 Jan. 14 – 8<sup>th</sup> District – Unit 9 Brunswick  
 Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> District – Unit 30 Albany  
 Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> District – Unit 105 Fayetteville  
 Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> District – Unit 112 Dalton (Subject to change)  
 Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> District – Unit 168 Hinesville.

Like everything else in life these dates are subject to change, but I hope not.

The workshops start at 10:00 AM and run no later than 2:30 PM. The Unit will serve lunch and a light breakfast.

I hope to receive several Yearbooks. I know it is not due until the 1<sup>st</sup> of February, just wanted to let you know how important it is to do a yearbook for your District and Unit. This is like the “Unit Activity Guide” the Department publishes every year. It contains the names and contacts of all the officers. Committee Chairman and dates of the upcoming special events and much more. It has always been my Department guide and I go nowhere without it. So please go ahead and do one for your District and Unit members it is such a helpful guide especially when you start to send out report forms. I will be looking forward to receiving them February 1, 2012. You can find the rules on the Web site under forms. There will be cash prizes given [www.galegionaux.org](http://www.galegionaux.org)

For God and Country.

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

By Betty Grist, Department 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

I just returned from the Fall Conference where we had a very interesting meeting.

I was very proud of our state even though we did not make the 55% goal by Oct. 6. We were 13th out of 52 Departments. Since that time we have had 2 Districts pass the 55%. On October 6th the Fourth District was in the lead with just over 52% but as of October 19th the Seventh District has taken the lead. Both of these Districts have gone over the 55% and are working toward the 70% goal for January. District and Unit Presidents encourage your membership chairmen to work harder on their membership list and try to get the members to pay their dues by reminding them that even if they are unable to help work on the projects, their dues help the members, who are able, to get the projects done.

With all the things the government is trying to do to take benefits away from our Veterans and Troops, it is going to take more work than ever from the members of the American Legion Family to give assistance to the people who have made this a safe and free country and have kept it that way. We also need to work hard on acquiring new members and to work with our juniors. Remember they are our future. We need to help them learn what our organization was founded for. We need to mentor them and our new members so that they will know what they need to do for the American Legion Family and how to accomplish the goals set for us.

REMEMBER; work hard on your membership and get it turned in before the January deadline.

God Bless America and the American Legion Family.



## Historian

By Gabriele Barnett, Department Historian

Recording history is essential in preserving what is happening today for the future to come. The Juniors at the Fall Conference gave us a prime example why it is important to know about the past. For those of you who were not at the Conference, let me

give you a short recap of what took place. The Juniors walked in with little cards around their neck which had the name of a war or conflict on it. It started with WWI and ended with the current War in Afghanistan. We learned about the time frame of the war, how many service members were injured, missing or killed in action. If nobody would have documented these facts we would not know about it now. Do you know why we celebrate Veteran's Day on 11 November every year? On the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month of 1918, an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, was declared between the Allied nations and Germany in the First World War, then known as "the Great War." Commemorated as Armistice Day beginning the following year, November 11<sup>th</sup> became a legal federal holiday in the United States in 1938. In the aftermath of World War II and the Korean War, Armistice Day became Veterans Day, a holiday dedicated to American veterans of all wars.

I have the privilege to attend the Veterans' Day celebrations in Washington DC this year. I know it will be an emotional event because of the painful memories associated with the many wars and conflicts. It is important to continue to remember and honor the sacrifices of these brave men and women. We must never forget!

Recording and preserving the history of our American Legion Auxiliary is essential for our future generations. We need to document what we are doing today so our future leaders can use our experience as a guideline or resource on what worked or what should be done differently. The rules for the history book are posted on the website. We will also post a "History Record Sheet." That is a worksheet which can be given to unit members to record events they attend, hours and/or money spent. Sometimes we tend to forget that our unit can get credit for work we do even if it is not directly sponsored by our unit. Please encourage your members to turn in the sheets to the historian so it can be recorded.

In closing, I would like to wish each and every one of you a Happy Thanksgiving. May your stuffing be tasty, may your turkey be plump, may your potatoes and gravy be smooth without a lump, may your yams be delicious and your pies take a prize – and may we never forget our service members' sacrifice.

## Chaplain

By Rosa Scott, Department Chaplain

Prayer:

Father, we thank you for the opportunity to come to you in prayer. We thank you for being there for us. Helps us to understand that you work through all circumstances that we might face –good and bad. Thank you Lord for the gift of prayer. We place all our concerns in your hand. Guide us, renew our strength and help us to put you first in everything we do.

We ask that you continue to be with our organization leader as they travel promoting our service to our veterans and the communities of our nation, We especially ask that you be with our military personnel around the world, protect them from all harm until they can return home to their families. We thank you for all things . . .in your Holy Name we pray. Amen

Hymn of Praise:

"Oh Give Thanks"

Reflection:

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise; be thankful unto Him, and bless His name. ~ Psalm 100: 4

As always for God and country . . .

### Thanksgiving

The year has turned its circle,  
The seasons come and go.  
The harvest all is gathered in  
And chilly north winds blow.  
Orchards have shared their treasures,  
The fields, their yellow grain,  
So open wide the doorway~  
Thanksgiving comes again!  
~Old Rhyme

## Department VA & R

By Gloria Johnston, Department VA & R Chairman

Christmas is almost here and it is time to honor our veterans and their families with gifts from the V.A. Gift Shops. Our Hospital Representatives and Volunteers do a great job in gathering the gifts and distributing them at the hospitals. Thanks to all of the Units who gather gifts or donate funds each year.

Here are the dates and Hospital Representatives that are in charge of the V.A. Gift Shops:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Hospital</u> <u>Hospital Reps and Contact Information</u>
12/5-12/9/2011	Atlanta V.A. Betty Hanna (404) 731-7878
12/5-12/6/2011	Augusta Downtown Miriam Stein (706) 863-8247
11/28-12/1/2011	Augusta Uptown Miriam Stein (706) 863-8247
12/2-12/3/2011	Dublin V.A. Dorothy Scarbary (478) 397-9172
12/1-12/1/2011	GWH Milledgeville Kathy Browder-Hawkins
12/3/2011	Tuskegee Iris Poole (706) 326-5425

Lake City does not have a Gift Shop

Send all checks for The Gifts Shops to Department Headquarters, so that we can keep records of the funds contributed. Thank you for Christmas Assessment funds that also go to give each veteran a small token of our love and appreciation. Make each and every one of you have a joyful Christmas and your hearts be filled with pride that you have honored our veterans so well.

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

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

Bulletin # 1

Georgia Girls State

November 2011

**WHAT:** Girls State**WHERE:** Statesboro, Georgia at Georgia Southern University**WHEN:** June 10 – 15, 2012.

**\*TAX:** A \$10.00 tax will be collected during registration from each girl. If the unit wishes to pay this for your girls, please submit \$210.00 per girl and records will be kept that the tax has been paid for the girls your unit sponsored.

**CHAIRMAN:** Deedy Harrell

**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 in your area to help with your orientation if help is needed. Former Girls Citizens can also be helpful when getting students prepared for the session.

**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 Girls State and mailed to the Department Headquarters. **Send the fee of \$200.00 per girl to the American Legion Auxiliary Department Headquarters, 3035 Mt. Zion Road, Stockbridge, GA 30281 before April 20, 2012** to assure space for your girls.

**\*NEW:** Parents must fill out a medical history and consent form. A physical by a doctor is not required.

**APPLICATIONS:** Applications are available by calling or emailing me, or they can be picked up at Conference or accessed on the website.

**To Be Mailed to the Director:** After applications are filled out by the girl, the high school and the unit, please send applications, medical history & consent forms, parent waiver, a copy of both sides of the insurance card and photos to **Deedy Harrell, 800 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169 by May 11, 2012. This is the deadline**, so please try to get them to me **earlier**, if possible.

After I received the application, I will send the forms packets to the girls. If you plan to print the forms packet for your girls, please signify that on the application. It will save postage for Girls State

**WEBSITE:** [www.georgiagirlsstate.org](http://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: [gagirlst@bellsouth.net](mailto:gagirlst@bellsouth.net) for the director, Deedy Harrell

Assistant Director Nini: [ninifrog@comcast.net](mailto:ninifrog@comcast.net)

**PHONE numbers:** Deedy 770-337-7997; Nini 770-479-0354 (home); 770-366-6730 (cell)

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

**APRIL 20, 2012** Checks for \$200.00 per girl due to the Department Headquarters

**May 11, 2012** Completed applications, medical history and consent form, parent waiver, copy of both sides of the insurance card and photo of the girl due to Director.

**June 10, 2012** Arrival at Girls State between 1:00 and 3:00 PM

**June 15, 2012** 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 coming after having sent in her 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 up the last day. Please join the Girls State Booster Club!! Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

**\*New for 2012**



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

In Honor of Veterans' Day, November 11th...

**Mommy, What is a Veteran?**

by Linda Ellis copyright 1998

"Mommy, what is a veteran?" my child asked in an innocent way  
"and could you please explain to me why we have a Veterans' Day?"

My mind searched for the adjectives that might help me clarify  
those people, who for their country have looked death in the eye.

I quickly grabbed the dictionary to see what Webster may have  
used but "one who served in the armed forces" were not the words  
that I would choose.

But, how do you describe a veteran -- soldiers you have never  
met, those you'll never know the names of and yet...never will  
forget?

How do you describe a veteran? How do you convey a definition for  
those who brought this country's dreams to their ultimate fruition?

How do you describe a veteran -- strangers who fought for you,  
men and women who risked their lives for people they never knew?

How do you describe a veteran -- and the sacrifices they made so  
that you and your children's children could live free...and unafraid?

How do you describe a veteran -- for a child's sake? You say "a  
veteran is a person to whom we owe every breath we take."



**Calendar of Upcoming Events**

November is Membership Retention Month

November 5 <sup>th</sup>	Daylight saving time ends
November 8 <sup>th</sup>	Election Day
November 10 <sup>th</sup>	Marine Corps Birthday
November 11 <sup>th</sup>	Veterans Day
November 13 <sup>th</sup>	American Education Week
November 20 <sup>th</sup>	National Family Week
November 24 <sup>th</sup>	Thanksgiving Day
February 20 – 22, 2012	ALA National President Visit, TBA
March 17 – 18, 2012	Spring Conference, Marietta
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