



## *American Legion Auxiliary Newsletter (334) 262-1176*

Department President, Sharon Atkins 2018-2019



*December 2018*

Theme for the year:

*Let Your Voice Be Heard for Our Veterans!*

Hello Ladies!

I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving. We all have so much to be thankful for!

As we move into the Christmas season, I hope you all will be spreading Christmas Cheer throughout your communities. There are so many ways that we can show our Christmas spirit and be a Santa to someone. I believe in Santa and I hope you do as well. This time of the year so many miracles happen and so much love is shown all across our land that the "Santa" in all of us comes out!

Reports are DUE!!! If you haven't already sent your reports into our program chairmen, please do so NOW.

Our Department Cookbooks would make great Christmas gifts! They are available from our Department Secretary for \$25.00.

Wreaths Across America will be December 15 at 11 am at the National Cemetery at Montevallo. This is a good way to show your support to our veterans by coming out to the National Cemetery for this program and for the wreath laying. If you would like to purchase a wreath go to [www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org)

Our Mid-Winter Conference is coming up January 24-27 at the Grand at Point Clear, AL. I hope you all can make it down. The registration form is on our website if you haven't received one yet. We will be sending out more information in the upcoming days. There is also a Banquet on Saturday night (26<sup>th</sup>). TAL Commander Harry Christian is planning the Banquet to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Legion. Tickets are \$20.00 each. Please plan to stay over and attend the banquet to show our support for TAL. The theme of the banquet is to dress up in attire from the WWI era. This banquet is TAL's way of celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Legion. I encourage everyone to attend and participate in this event.

I will be traveling every weekend in December, so I will be seeing many of you. I hope to receive more invites for after the first of the year. We need Units and Districts to step up and start planning Leadership training days. Please see Gloria to set up your date.

Our membership is still looking good, but we still need to continue to push membership and getting our membership dues paid by December 31. Anyone whose 2019 dues are not paid by December 31 will not be a member in good standing. We still have Units that are continuing to hold membership. Please do NOT do that. We reached a National quota by Veterans Day and our Department won \$250.00 for that. Congratulations to Vickie and everyone that has been working membership!

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Remember our troops that will not be home for Christmas, our neighbors to the south that are still trying to recover their life from Hurricane Michael, our neighbors in our communities, our veterans and home bound. Show people what the American Legion Auxiliary is all about! Community Service, VA&R, Children & Youth, Americanism, National Security, all these programs can be worked throughout the Christmas season.

Your Sister in Service,

Sharon Atkins, President  
Department of Alabama  
American Legion Auxiliary

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FINANCE CHAIRMAN, Cheryl Wheeler, 334-759-0398, [Cheryl.C.Wheeler@gmail.com](mailto:Cheryl.C.Wheeler@gmail.com)

Please bring items for the Silent Auction to Mid- Winter.

The American Legion Auxiliary Department Operations Guide (which can be downloaded from [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org)) Chapter 3 Financial Operations page 21 Section 7 Important Tax Information states the following: Please consult the Appendix for the Important Tax Information document, an overview of federal and state tax requirements, non-profit taxation matters, and other related topics. The information in this Guide and the Appendix is not intended as legal advice or directives from the national organization. It is provided to help the Department, units, districts/ counties/ councils understand and meet their federal and state tax regulations and reporting requirements, and to offer general guidance and best practices in non-profit management or governance. If, after reading this information, you still have questions - particularly about meeting legal requirements or filing federal and state tax forms correctly - consider consulting a licensed attorney, non-profit expert, and/or certified professional accountant knowledgeable and experienced with non-profits and tax laws of your state. We hope that this information will answer your questions and give you more insight into why the national organization promotes best practices in nonprofit management or governance.

The Appendix referenced above is located in Appendix B, **IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION** (page 1 of 13) updated 10/13/2016. Please remember to send a copy of your EIN authorization letter from the IRS to Carol at Department. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

NATIONAL HAS A NEW ADDRESS

*American Legion Auxiliary, National  
3450 Founders Road  
Indianapolis, IN. 46268*

From National:  
“The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) National Headquarters, based in Indianapolis, has set a date of Dec. 11 when business opens at its new office location at 3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268.

The ALA National Executive Committee in July 2017 approved the purchase of the building, the first time the organization has owned property in its nearly 100-year history.

With close proximity to major interstates, the new office location is 20 minutes from downtown Indianapolis and 30 minutes from the Indianapolis International Airport. The new building space is larger, allowing the ALA to host more of its meetings at National Headquarters.

Thursday, Dec. 6, will be the last day of business at National Headquarters’ Meridian Street location in Indianapolis. The office will be closed to the public on Friday, Dec. 7, when movers will transport all office materials to Founders Road, and on Monday, Dec. 10. Tour dates of the new location will be announced in future ALA national media.

All phone numbers and email addresses for ALA National Headquarters will remain the same.

Members are advised to visit [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org), where extensive resources are available 24/7 on the Auxiliary’s programs, history, and scholarships.”

Department of Alabama  
Scouting Update

Hello Legionnaire Scouters and supporters of the Department of Alabama’s Scouting initiatives. I’ve been quiet since becoming Boy Scout Committee Chairman, but I wanted to reach out to give you a quick update.

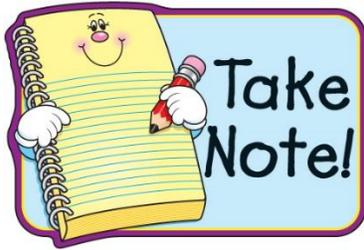
First off, I want to direct you to our new [Scouting@LegionAL.org](mailto:Scouting@LegionAL.org) email address. I’ll send communications from it, and feel free to reach out to me at that address.

Second, last night I was able to dial in for the 6th Annual meeting of American Legion Department Scouting Chairpersons. It was a very informative call and around a dozen Departments were represented. I’ll write up a full report to share with you in the coming weeks. One note of interest, the new Florida Boy Scout Chairman has asked all Departments who used their Scouting Manual as a template to pull the manuals out of circulation. We have done so, and I am working to have a new manual ready around the first of the year.

I’ll be sharing more information in the weeks leading up to our Mid-Winter Conference.

For God and Country,

Jeremy B. Blevins  
Boy Scout Committee Chairman  
The American Legion  
Department of Alabama



New Office Hours:

**Effective January 7, 2019**

Monday and Wednesday  
8a – Noon

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday  
8a- 4p

*Cookbooks are for Sale:*

Looking for a great Christmas idea? Don't forget about the Auxiliary Cookbooks – only \$25, plus shipping and handling.



Department will be **Closed** in Observance of Christmas and New Years on the following dates:

**Christmas:**

**December 24, 25, and 26, 2018**

**New Year's:**

**December 31, 2018 - January 1 and 2, 2019**



*Just a Reminder:*

Department has Poppies for Sale. Poppies are \$20/100 plus \$8 for shipping and handling per 100 for a total of \$28/100



2018-2019 AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY EDUCATION PROGRAM  
Education Bulletin Series 2018-2019 – DEC 2018

DATE: December 1, 2018

FROM: Education Program Chairman

SUBJECT: Education Mid-Year Reports are Due December 5, 2018 (This date posted in Programs Action Plan) but **I will accept Education Reports I receive by close of business (COB) December 15, 2018.**

First of all, it is with a saddened heart and personal reasons have resulted in my resignation as Chairman of the Department Education Program. I, Jane Stump, will however still accept your Mid-Year reports (*my address is 860 County Road 75, Stevenson, AL 35772. Phone#: 256-548-2212 and Email: stumpjane1949@yahoo.com*) and work them up and submit the results to Division and National. I feel this will prevent us from falling behind in our Program while the new Chairman assumes her position. I will provide the newly appointed Chairman any information and assistance regarding Department Education Program activities that I have completed and all written information from July 1, 2018 to Mid-Winter.

**Dear Alabama Unit Education Chairman,**

American Legion Auxiliary members are busy all year long working hard for our veterans, our service members and their families, and the Education Program fosters learning for children in our communities, with our focus on the children of our military and veterans. But occasionally, we need to pause and reevaluate - take a break and reflect on what we've done thus far, what worked, what didn't and where we can improve. And Mid-Year Reporting provides us with the opportunity to do just that. It will also provide time to evaluate on how our Education program might better concentrate on National President Kathy Dungan's focus of veteran homelessness, particularly that of our women veterans. And our Department President Sharon Atkins' focus of Let Your Voice be heard for our Veterans.

**Mid-Year reports** reflect the program work of Units throughout Alabama. Unit Education Chairmen please submit your report by December 5, 2018, to the Department of Alabama Education Program Chairman. **I will accept REPORTS up to close of business December 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**Who must file a Mid-Year Report?** Every Unit Education Chairman must do so.

**When is the report due?** The report is due by DEC 5<sup>th</sup> Department Chairman **but I will accept reports that I receive by COB on December 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**\*\*What should be reported? \*\*** No matter how big or small, you should report any Education activities, including stories, flyers, news, and social media activity or anything that helps to share your success stories that serve the ALA mission.

Remember both our National President's focus and our Department President's focus

**Recognize accomplishments!** We've worked hard; the reports are where we show everything we've done and give recognition to those movers and shakers! Once reported, that individual effort starts a snowball effect, being recognized in mainstream media, internal publications and social media.

**And some last reminders:** I use 'Spell Check' to catch common spelling, punctuation and grammar errors. Also, I have someone else look it over my report(s) before I send it in; always good to have a second set of eyes look it over. And finally, retain copies; keep copies of everything you submit! I suggest that you email it to yourself when emailing it to your Department Chairman; it provides great back up. Be proud of what you and your Unit has done. You've been productive, and everyone gets to shine. Report it! Let everyone else share in your ideas and what worked. Let everyone else hear what a great program you are working. The only way to do this is by reporting it.

**How the ALA Education Program has helped:**

Our American Legion Auxiliary Education program concentrates on learning for children in our own communities, with our focus on the children of our military and veterans.

ALA Scholarship information and applications can be found at: <https://www.alaforveterans.org/Programs/Education/> and on American Legion Auxiliary Department of Alabama Website.

Also, you can call or email me: Phone: 256-548-2212 Email: [stumpjane1949@yahoo.com](mailto:stumpjane1949@yahoo.com)



# Registration for Mid-Winter Department of Alabama January 24-27, 2019

*The Grand Hotel  
One Grand Blvd, Point Clear, AL. 36564  
(251) 928-9201*

**Pre-Registration Deadline: January 4, 2019**

**\$15/person      Unit: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:**(\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Mid-Winter will be held at the Grand Hotel in Point Clear. Please contact the hotel at (251) 928-9201 to make reservations as soon as possible. The dates are January 24-27, 2019. We hope to see EVERYONE at the Conference.

There will be a banquet on Saturday night hosted by the LEGION. If you are wanting to attend this banquet, please write a check out to THE AMERICAN LEGION for \$20/person for your ticket. Make sure to return the bottom portion of this with your check made out to **THE AMERICAN LEGION**, that states who is purchasing the banquet tickets and how many tickets you wish to purchase. You may send the check in the same envelope with your registration for Mid-Winter, however **DO NOT** include banquet money on the same check as your registration for Mid-Winter. **Registration is to be made out to Dept of Alabama ALA. Banquet tickets are to be made out to The American Legion.**

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Banquet Tickets for Mid-Winter:  
January 26, 2019

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20/ea = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check out to: THE AMERICAN LEGION**

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American Legion Auxiliary  
P O Box 606  
Montgomery, AL. 36101

**Phone**  
(334) 262-1176

**E-mail**  
ALAux.Sec@legional.org

Don't Forget to Let Your  
Voice Be Heard for Our  
Veterans!

## Key Dates:

**December 15, 2018**

Wreath's Across America, Alabama National Cemetery; 11a

**December 24-26, 2018**

Department Office will be closed for Christmas

**December 31, 2018-January 2, 2019**

Department Office will be closed for New Years

**January 5, 2019**

Department New Years Party; 2p

**January 7, 2019**

Office Hours Change

**January 24-27, 2019**

Mid-Winter Conference

Grand Hotel

One Grand Blvd, Point Clear, AL. 36564

Phone: (251) 928-9201

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**

P O BOX 606  
MONTGOMERY, AL 36101

