

# Headquarters News



# DAV Auxiliary



3725 ALEXANDRIA PIKE • COLD SPRING, KENTUCKY 41076

## BYLAW BOOKS ARE READY!

The newly revised constitution and bylaw books are ready. The printer worked extra hard to get them to us in plenty of time for the National Fall Conference. The books can be purchased at a cost of \$1.50. As stated in a previous communication, the cost was raised to cover printing and postage expenses.

Send your bylaw orders and checks payable to DAVA directly to: DAVA National Headquarters, 3725 Alexandria Pike , Cold Spring, KY 41076

### Exercise your Right to Vote on November 4, 2008

- Veterans have served so that we can live in freedom.
- Some made the ultimate sacrifice for our land of opportunity.
- Let your voice be heard



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## AUXILIARY MANUAL

The Auxiliary Manual, often referred to as the "Yellow Book," underwent a complete revision in 2006. Since that time the books have been sold at a cost of \$15 each.

The Auxiliary Manual is available on-line at the DAV website . Go to [www.dav.org/dava](http://www.dav.org/dava). The Auxiliary Manual can be found on the left side of the page and is broken down by individual sections. Some of the larger sections have been divided into two

parts to accommodate slower internet browsers.

Since 2006, some minor changes have been made to the Manual and as changes are made the online version is updated. The changes are also incorporated into the manuals mailed from national headquarters.

In the future, we will make every effort to advise the members of any changes made to the Manual through this newsletter.

- **Education Loan Section** – The Education Loan Fund will now be open to part-time students who can receive \$1,250 provided they carry a minimum six-credit hour schedule. This change can be found on the Information page in the Education Loan Fund Section.
- **Service Support Section** – The application page has been changed to limit the fund to one recipient per household.

**V A V S B U L L E T I N**

Frances Costa, National VAVS Representative

I have been given the opportunity of being reappointed as the National VAVS Representative and my goal is to continue to make a difference by increasing our volunteer numbers and by getting our VAVS Representatives and Deputies back on track with the Department of Veterans Affairs. National Deputy Ellen Drogo and I hope that you all had a great summer and are well rested and ready to get down to business at your local VAMC's and outpatient clinics.

It is September and the month that all DAVA Voluntary Service Representatives should be completing their Annual Joint Reviews with their Voluntary Service chiefs. We need to get back on track with this. If you have not spoken with voluntary services and you are a representative please ask them to set up your annual joint review as soon as possible. This is a tracking device that helps us to see where improvements need to be made and address them at the National Advisory committee meetings. Our volunteer numbers need to be increased so please work on recruiting new registered volunteers. I will be attending the annual Executive Board Meeting following Fall Conference and I hope to see an increase in the numbers of volunteers and donations on the part of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

Our purpose in the DAVA is to assist our disabled veterans and the Volunteer program is one of the best ways to do that. There are so many opportunities and programs that we can connect with through our voluntary service office. The staff is there to assist you in matching with a program where you can be of great service. One of the new programs charged to voluntary service is the "veteran voting program". This new program is geared to assist hospitalized veterans to be able to cast their votes. Check this out with your local voluntary service office. There are many capable people who would like to be involved, but they say they cannot spend time in hospitals or be around ill people, and that is understandable and taken in to consideration when matching you up with a program within the VA system. Assisting with the Veterans Writing Program is another way-writing the thoughts either through poetry or composing veterans' stories to be published in the "Veteran's Voices" quarterly.

Another way is to volunteer for the Local Veterans Assistance Program since many volunteers do not live in close proximity to a VAMC which allows volunteers to provide needed services to veterans and their families in the community and you should be recognized for that service. Also keep in mind that Youth volunteers also will be given credit for this voluntary service program and will be eligible for the DAV Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship Program so long as they meet the minimum eligibility requirements for consideration. LVAP volunteer time may be reported Unit involvement with Chapter and Department Service Officer work, DAV outreach programs such as Air show Outreach, Harley's Heroes, Nat'l Guard mobilization and demobilizations, Forget Me Not drives and direct assistance to veterans, widows or their families whether it be shopping, yard work, home maintenance for example.

Besides the VAVS programs drivers and volunteers are needed for the Transportation Network. We need those who have committed themselves to this program and urge new volunteers to step up and keep this very worthwhile program going. Yes it is a commitment to be available to drive or volunteer in the office but when we look around us and see the need we need to remember that being a volunteer is a calling to help our disabled veterans.

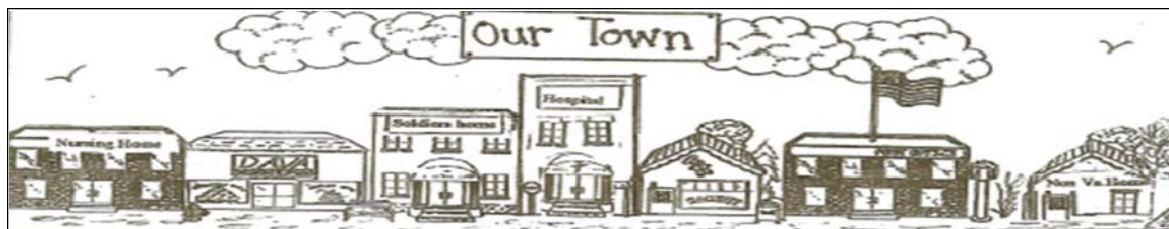
In reading DAV VAVS Representative Ed Hartman's national convention report (can be found on the DAV web site) I was reminded of many things that tend to slide to the back of your mind and has given me a renewed interest in some of the programs that really need our assistance.

Our commitment to service to Disabled Veterans has always been important to the lives of our heroes who have met the call and put on the uniform. Let us continue to give back to them and assist the families as well who have given up so much and are too proud to ask for help. Just a simple thing like delivering a grocery basket to the family of a deployed or injured veteran could bring a bright spot in to their lives. We all need to have our spirits boosted by knowing someone really cares about the sacrifices they have and are making.

**BECOME A VOLUNTEER! RENEW YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE VOLUNTARY SERVICE PROGRAM AND YOUR COMMITMENT TO DISABLED VETERANS!  
LIKE UNCLE SAM TOLD THEM "WE NEED YOU" WELL - THEY NEED US.**

Thank you for all that you do, and just a reminder to all Volunteers and Representatives that the volunteer hours recording ends September 30<sup>th</sup> so if you have hours to update you must get it done this month. Voluntary Service cannot get into the system to post hours for this year after September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**NON-VA HOSPITAL REPORT**  
**Dorothea Campanelli, Chairman**



I would like to thank our newly elected commander “Sandy” for appointing me National Non-VA Hospital Chairman. Through her leadership, our auxiliary will continue to move forward in service to our veterans and their families. It is my honor to serve as well on her team. What is Non-VA Hospital? This question seems to plague most of us as reflected on some of our reports and in the magnificent work we do. It appears that we are all ambitious to go out and help. We visit nursing homes, hospitals and soldiers homes and when it comes time to document our time and hours....we have no idea on what form it goes. A good thought to keep in mind for your auxiliaries is “is this facility related in any way with the VA?” If it is, it belongs on the VAVS report. Is it a state-run facility?....are

you visiting in a town hospital or private nursing home.... Then it is Non-VA.

I know that many of our auxiliary members were at Fall Conference and were inspired by the many varied ideas that were presented. In my bulletins this year, I will attempt to relate the ideas that were presented at Fall Conference for non-VA and present some new and innovative ones. Our facilities are decorated (sometimes) by staff and occasionally you see a plant or two in the rooms of the residents. You can visit with your units and bring decorative Fall foliage, pictures and harvest-related items for Thanksgiving adding to the festivities. A small wreath or poster on the door of a resident adds a feeling of warmth to his/her room. Units can get dressed in costume for Halloween and

visit each room for “Treats” (approved by the facility—can be also comfort items such as combs, shampoo, soap, etc.

Most residents wear hearing aids, that is a fact. When you donate portable CD players, etc., has it occurred to you where the ear pieces will go? From experience on the hospital floors, I have learned that those old boom boxes you may have placed on a shelf somewhere with the cassette tapes are much needed. Some individuals do not like to watch TV all day long. Perhaps they want to listen to the ball game or some easy listening. We can provide that. If you have any questions or would like to brainstorm, please contact me through National Headquarters and I will get back to you. Until then, remember to SERVE WITH A SMILE.

**Donations received at the national convention in Las Vegas, Nevada.**

- |                              |                           |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Education Loan Fund—\$1,800  | Freedoms Foundation—\$350 |
| Service Support Fund—\$3,658 | Winter Ski Clinic— \$50   |

*Generosity carries no price tag, yet the rewards are priceless.*

~  
*“Life is all memory except for the one present moment that goes by you so quickly, you hardly catch it.”*

Tennessee Williams



## DAV AUXILIARY

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*Making a Difference, Now and Always*

Attention Adjutants - The monthly mailings you receive are to be taken to each and every meeting and shared with your unit officers and members. The Headquarters News is a vital communication tool and should be made available to all auxiliary members. Be sure to remind your members that this newsletter is available online at [www.dav.org/dava](http://www.dav.org/dava) or by a \$10 annual subscription.

### Reminders

- When a part-life member is dropped on June 30 due to non-completion of payment of their life membership in the allotted period of time, they can be reinstated and receive credit for money paid on their life membership provided they submit the entire balance due at the time they were dropped. Be sure to include the membership number and a notation requesting life membership reinstatement.
- The Form 990-N (electronic postcard) must be filed with the IRS within five months and 15 days following the close of the financial period of the unit and/or state department. If your unit receives an error message asking you to contact national headquarters concerning a letter of inclusion, call national headquarters toll-free at 877.426.2838 and the staff will confirm your EIN and follow up with the IRS.
- We're working on a template that can be used for junior membership cards. This template should be available in the very near future for downloading. Watch for additional information on our web site, [www.dav.org/dava](http://www.dav.org/dava), or the Headquarters News.
- Unit and state department checks require two (2) authorized signatures.
- Before sending in group membership payments, make sure the check amount balances with the applications and/or payments.
- Veterans Day is November 11 – Be sure to thank a Vet!