

Headquarters News



DAV Auxiliary



3725 ALEXANDRIA PIKE • COLD SPRING, KENTUCKY 41076

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

By Patrice Rapisand, National Legislative Chairman

President's Day is just a few days away—are you informed about our Presidents? While reading about Abraham Lincoln, I was surprised at just how little I knew about him. I would like to share just a snapshot about Abraham Lincoln.

Abraham Lincoln was born February 12, 1809 in Hardin County, Kentucky. His parents were both born in Virginia from undistinguished families. Lincoln's mother died when he was ten years old. The family moved to Indiana when Abe was eight. Indiana was a wild region, with many bears and wild animals in the woods. Lincoln did not have much of an education as a youth. He could read and write—but that was all.

Lincoln made extraordinary efforts

to attain knowledge while working on a farm. He spent eight years in the Illinois legislature and rode the circuit courts for many years. His law partner said of him, "His ambition was a little engine that knew no rest."

He married Mary Todd. They had four sons—only one would live to adulthood. In 1858, Lincoln ran against Stephan A. Douglas for Senator. He lost the election, but, in debating with Douglas, he gained a national reputation that won him the Republican nomination for President in 1860.

Lincoln, as President, built the Republican Party into a strong national organization. But, he also persuaded the northern Democrats to join the Union cause. One January 1, 1863, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation

that declared freedom for the slaves within the Confederacy.

Lincoln was re-elected in 1864—the end of the war was near. He urged the Southerners to lay down their arms and join the Union. On Good Friday, April 14, 1865, Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's Theater in Washington by John Wilkes Booth, an actor who thought he was helping the South. The opposite was true—with Abraham Lincoln's death, the possibility of a trouble-free peace was lost.

As you think of Abraham Lincoln as an American whose life was taken too soon, remember all our veterans, although not as well known, equally loyal and brave.

New Auxiliary Unit Chartered!

Delray Beach, Florida
Unit #152
Chartered Jan. 22, 2009

COMMUNITY SERVICE

By Susan Miller, National Community Service Chairman

In February, you can "Rock our Community with Service" for Valentine's Day. There may be a special dance for the seniors in the community. You could assist with refreshments. If you are a beautician, you could cut and style a couple's hair for the dance. Your juniors could host a Valentine's Party for the Unit and Chapter. There are probably many ideas you can come up with.

The **second** section of Community Service is **PROFESSIONAL AND TRADE SERVICES.**

These services are also direct services to families. Your unit may have a qualified person who would volunteer to help a veteran and his family. Your unit may wish to pay for a doctor or dental bill. Any assistance you may render could be considered **trade services** such as barber, beautician, cobbler, tailor, plumber, repairman, etc. **Professional skills** will include doctor, nurse, optometrist, therapist, teacher, etc. **Remember, you cannot be compensated for your time in order to qualify for this program. It must be all voluntary.**

Please keep up the great work and continue to "Rock your Community with Service."

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JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

By Anita Ingram, National Jr. Activities Chairman

Whether you're a child or a grownup, spring flowers are just about irresistible. But in the doldrums of winter, real flowers can be hard to find. Here's a great project for our Junior members to bring to our hospitalized veterans during the dreary winter months.

Tissue Paper Bouquet

Materials:

1 – large sheet each of red, white, and blue tissue paper (or whatever colors your child wants).
3 – green pipe cleaners
Scissors (either plain or fancy edged)

Directions:

- Cut the tissue paper into squares, about 5" x 5".
- Take four squares – at least one color of each – and lay

them on top of one another in one flat, square stack.

- Starting with the edge closest to them, fold the stacked square into horizontal folds every $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, like an accordion. You will have a flat, long rectangle with about four folds in it.



- Take one pipe cleaner and fold the top 1". Hook it over the center of the long, flat rectangle of

tissue, and wrap it tight. The tissue on each side will start to fan up – pull it up even more to make a round flower shape, similar to a carnation.

While giving small hands something to keep them occupied, they've made a sweet bouquet for all seasons, and a delightful gift for the special veterans in our lives.



NON-VA HOSPITAL

By Dorothea Campanelli, National Non-VA Hospital Chairman

When we attended our conference in September, there seemed to be a lot of confusion surrounding what are Non-VA hospital, Community Service and VA... I have attempted to address some of these areas previously, but feel a review is necessary. When you are visiting or caring for a veteran, simply ask this question, "What are the walls that surround him/her?" If they are in their own home, friends or family...it is Community Service. If they are in a private hospital for treatment, surgery, etc., ...this is Non-VA Hospital. When you hear the words "Veterans Affairs" facility... then this is under VAVS. If you are visiting a state nursing home or private nursing home...it is Non-VA Hospital. Hopefully these thoughts will help to define your volunteer service.

IDEAS – Now that Valentine's Day and Veterans' week is just a memory, and we still have a little bit of February and winter left before the Ides of March, my hope is that you will turn your thoughts to some of the ideas that were given at the conference. For March we have "The wearing of the green," and it seems that everyone is Irish in our hospitals and nursing homes. A) Your auxiliary can make carnations out of crepe paper to be given to the patients to wear during the month. B) Make shamrocks out of green poster board to hang on the doors of rooms. C) Take a veteran or two out for lunch to celebrate spring. D) Continue to collect those old boom boxes and cassettes and bring them to wards and rooms. (Note: we left a radio in one of our VA hospitals and the patient loved it so much they let him take it back to the nursing home.)

Spring will soon be upon us in the east and mid-west. For those of you who live in warmer climates you can stop at your florist and ask if they will donate some plastic pots, decorate them with colored foil and ribbon, fill them with planting soil, get packages of seed and bring to the nursing homes. Your auxiliary can have a planting day with the residents in the Activity Room. Let the residents plant and water the seed and give them the responsibility of seeing the seeds sprout into flowers. Some homes allow the residents to plant these flowers outside in a communal garden.

SMILES ARE THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE OF COMMUNICATION. GET OUT THERE AND GIVE THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING... YOUR SMILE.

VETERANS AFFAIRS VOLUNTARY SERVICE (VAVS)

By Frances Costa, National VAVS Representative

Hello to all of our Auxiliary members and I hope you are all surviving this dreadfully cold winter. Sick of snow yet? I know there are many states that have felt the brunt of winter much worse than Massachusetts and I feel for you all with the cold, the ice, wind and snow. I think my body is telling me to find a warmer climate which then again has its bad weather at times, but at least it is warm. God bless you all and I thank you for what you continue to do volunteering in the Veterans Affairs system for our veterans.

One major way that you could assist our veterans besides actually volunteering is by supporting the Disabled American Veterans Winter Sports Clinic which is rapidly approaching. The DAV Auxiliary has been supporting this program since 2001 and could really use your financial support to ensure that we continue to be able to financially support this awesome program. To have attended the Winter Sports Clinic once, I still get goose flesh when I remember and review pictures of the determination and pride of accomplishment on the faces of the disabled veterans (and their families) participating in the events. It is an experience I shall never forget and to see the drive and determination with so many physical and mental challenges they endure, there is nothing that we cannot do to make their lives better. Please send your personal, state or unit donations directly to DAVA National Headquarters, 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076 so that we can continue to be a Bronze supporter of this worthwhile DAV project. Donations are down and the Auxiliary could really use your help.

What is VAVS? The Dept. of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service program, the largest volunteer program in the federal government, has provided 62 years of service to America's veterans seeking care in VA health care facilities. Since 1946, VAVS volunteers have donated 700.8 million hours of service with more than 350 national community organizations supporting the program. VAVS volunteers and their organizations this past year contributed an estimated \$82 million in gifts and donations which supplement VA appropriations to medical centers, clinics and nursing homes. These significant contributions allow the Dept. of Veterans Affairs to assist direct patient care programs, as well as support services and activities that may not be fiscal priorities from year to year. As VA has expanded its care of veteran patients into the community, volunteers have become involved. They assist veteran patients by augmenting staff in such settings as hospital wards, nursing homes, outpatient clinics. Community-based volunteer programs, and end-of-life programs, respite care, national cemeteries, veteran outreach centers and benefits offices. Volunteer Hours: 11,479,008. Regularly scheduled volunteers: 126,991; Gifts and Donations: Monetary \$26,232,658—material \$55,988,917; Total Donations \$82,221,575. (These totals taken from the Voluntary Service 2008 Annual Report.)

“The DAV Auxiliary has been supporting this program since 2001 and could really use your financial support to ensure that we continue to be able to financially support this awesome program.”

In reviewing the October 8, 2008, year-end comparison by organization, the DAV and DAVA volunteers have dropped again for the fifth straight year in a row. We need you to re-energize for the sake of all the newly returned disabled veterans who will need our help and support. They will learn by our giving and volunteerism to take over the torch for the prior years of generations. It was a brightening observance when I compared other organizations to see that they also are struggling with numbers but that the Vietnam Veterans Association has started being proactive and their numbers have increased annually over the past five years. It is this generation of DAV and Auxiliary members that we need to embrace to have them become active in our areas. **WE NEED YOUR HELP MORE THAN EVER IN THE PAST!!! PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A REGULARLY SCHEDULED VOLUNTEER!!**

For example: just DAVA hours 2004 total hours was 275,843 # regularly scheduled volunteers 2,062
 2005 total hours was 243,031 # regularly scheduled volunteers 1,938
 2006 total hours was 225,017 # regularly scheduled volunteers 1,774
 2007 total hours was 213,160 # regularly scheduled volunteers 1,587
 2008 total hours was 205,466 # regularly scheduled volunteers 1,525

These are just regular scheduled volunteer numbers. I do not have the total number of occasional volunteers available. We are in need of regularly scheduled volunteers desperately. Please give this some thought and get involved. With approximately 191 VA facilities throughout the country, the aforementioned numbers really are quite small. Encourage your unit Occasional volunteers to become more active. If ever there was a time that we need all of our volunteers it is now. Welcome home projects, VA feeding programs, clerical etc are just a few ways to help.

Please contact your DAVA facility representative and come on board. The representative will get you in contact with the Voluntary Service Staff where you will become a registered volunteer and receive the Orientation and Training materials that you will need.



DAV AUXILIARY

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Making a Difference, Now and Always

Total members as of January 31, 2009 — 155,340
National Quota — 162,184

Reminders

- The cutoff date for changing unit annual dues is February 28, 2009. Advise national headquarters of any changes prior to that date since the renewal notices for 2009-2010 will be mailed in March.
- Indebtedness—If your unit is still receiving a monthly indebtedness statement for outstanding mandates, it might be a good time for the unit to vote to pay the balance owed. This will assure that your unit is in good standing at state and national conventions.
- Watch the Activity Report for unclaimed members. Unclaimed status is assigned when undeliverable mail is returned to national headquarters. If a correct address is not received by June 30, the member will be moved to the national at-large.
- If changing a member's address online, be watchful in cases where there are several members at the same address. In most situations, the membership system links identical addresses and when one address is changed, all addresses in that link will be changed as well. When in doubt, contact national headquarters for assistance.
- **Without exception**, all unit expenditures must be made by vote of the unit at a regular business meeting. Warrants/Vouchers/Check Requests are to be used for each check written. Refer to the national bylaws.
- Elections—Be sure to notify **all** senior members in writing at least ten days prior to nomination and elections.
- Election of officers must be conducted individually. Example: nominate and elect commander; nominate and elect senior vice commander; etc. No blanket slate elections. Respect the positions and elect your officers accordingly.
- Watch next month's edition of the Headquarters News for an explanation of a new national convention registration process!
- Happy Valentine's Day to our members, active military and vets!