

# Headquarters News



# DAV Auxiliary



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## MEMBERSHIP

The membership numbers are inching higher, but not soaring as they should. All members are encouraged to sign up at least one new member. It can be difficult, but if *everyone signed one* that would significantly increase our membership and give greater volume to our voice on legislative issues.

A membership mailing has been sent to approximately 80,000 households encouraging DAV Auxiliary membership. We can only hope this drive will be an overwhelming success resulting in thousands of active auxiliary members. Whenever possible,

these members will be placed in nearby units. In the cases where we are uncertain of the location of the closest unit, the members will be enrolled in the national at-large. In a few months, units will be encouraged to contact the national at-large members within their specific zip code areas. We ask that units scour the activity report and watch for newly assigned members. Contact, encourage, and welcome them.

At a time when military men and women are in harm's way and facing a lifetime of disabilities from known or not-yet-manifested injuries, we must encourage

membership growth because we need to be there for them just as generations of members before us have stood strong for veterans. DAV Auxiliary members play a vital role in securing, protecting, and defending benefits to which all disabled veterans are entitled. Membership builds strength; we must build membership.

Sponsoring a new senior member enters you in the random drawing for one of three \$200 cash giveaways. And, the top Auxiliary recruiter will be awarded \$300!

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## A Note of Thanks

National Adjutant Judy Hezlep and National Assistant Adjutant Pat Kemper wish to extend their appreciation for the warm encouragement and strong support received since their respective appointments one year ago.

Their first year has passed quickly and, always keeping the members in mind, they are proud of the accomplishments and strides made during that short span of time. Comments and suggestions from Auxiliary members are always welcome and valued. After all, it is the input of dedicated members that generates change, growth, and success.

*If you have knowledge, let others light their candles in it. ~ Margaret Fuller*

## WRITTEN ELECTION NOTIFICATION

The unit section of the national bylaws states, “The Adjutant shall notify all senior members in writing at least ten (10) days prior to any nominations and/or elections.”

With the rising cost of postage, many units are questioning the necessity of this bylaw. Much discussion has been held concerning this requirement and even though sending written notification to members can be costly, it is very important to do so. Please consider the following suggestions:

- One of the methods units can apply would be to use postcards that require lower cost postage.
- Another approved method would be to send an email to those who have email and are in agreement to be contacted in that manner. Keep in mind, of course, that not all members have email and those members **must** receive approved written notification.
- Send a newsletter! Take advantage of this communication tool by incorporating the nomination/election information with unit news or items of interest. Since many units do not have the funds to send periodic newsletters, this would be a great way to reach out to your members at least once a year, especially bringing unit news to those who may not be regular meeting attendees. It doesn't have to be a formal newsletter; just something that provides vital information to the unit members.

Note: The wording “*ten days prior*” means that all senior members must receive election notification no less than ten days prior to elections; not within ten days. Again, sending a newsletter even a few months in advance of an election would suffice as long as the exact date of nomination/election is specifically stated.

## Units on Hold

Units are placed on hold for a number of reasons; one could be the election of a delinquent officer, or a unit that fails to submit an annual officer report. Usually “on hold” status is a minor issue that can be resolved in a short span of time with the cooperation of the unit. Whatever the reason, this should not bar a unit from voting at a state or national convention. Suspended units would have no voice or vote at these conventions; however, units on hold have every right to do so.

## Tentative National Convention Agenda

August 20—Registration begins	August 23—Auxiliary Business Session
August 20—Auxiliary NEC Meeting	August 23—Fun Night
August 21—National District Meetings	August 24—Auxiliary Business Session
August 22—Joint Opening Session	August 24—Forget-Me-Not Luncheon
August 22—Convention Committee Meetings	August 25—Final Aux. Business Session
August 22—DAV National Comdr. Reception	August 25—Intro. of Natl. Officers & Dinner

The 2009 National Convention will be held at the Sheraton Denver Hotel, 1550 Court Pl., Denver, CO 80202  
Telephone: 303.893.3333 ~ Room rate: \$119.00 Single/Double

## **Important information for National Executive Committee Members**

When making your national convention travel plans, please arrange to be present for the Introduction of National Officers to take place on the evening of Tuesday, August 25, 2009. This also applies to those members from the odd-numbered districts who have stated their intention to run for election to the office of National Executive Committee Member. Plan accordingly so you can be present during this special introduction.

### **Teaching Our Junior Members Patriotism**

By Anita Ingram, National Junior Activities Chairman

*This is the season for patriotism. From Memorial Day in May to Veteran's Day in November, the calendar is sprinkled with red, white and blue.*

*But do our junior members really understand what it means to be free?*

*Do they know the true meaning of Independence Day and the form of government we call democracy?*

*Do they realize that young men and women throughout the past two centuries have fought and given their lives to protect our way of life?*

*Here are some ideas to help our junior members appreciate the past and honor those who have fought to preserve our way of life:*

- Talk about the historical significance of the holiday you're celebrating. On the Fourth of July, discuss some of the reasons for the American Revolution. Why did our founding fathers want to break off from England? Do they know that the "declaration" was actually the beginning of the war, not the end? What do we remember on Memorial Day? Veteran's Day?
- Revisit your family tree. Who in their family served in the armed forces? Encourage them to talk to family veterans and have them ask questions about the time in which they served. Discuss what it means to be free. Do they know there are places where children can't choose what they want to do when they grow up? Are they aware that some people can't live where they want to, or worship their God as they choose?
- VOTE. No other lesson will have a greater impact on our juniors than seeing democracy in action. We can teach them best by taking them with us when we vote. Choose a small local election – pick a slow time after school – they can see the set-up and talk to the election personnel about our rights and responsibility.
- Teach them to honor and respect our flag, and exactly what it stands for. Teach them how to care for it, when to fly it, when to take it down and what to do when it needs replacing. Talk about the symbolism of our flag, the stars representing the 50 states and the stripes representing the first thirteen states.
- Attend parades commemorating patriotic holiday and encourage all our junior members to join in. Sprinkle lessons of American history into our juniors' lives. Watch specials on PBS, the History Channel, or the Discovery Channel that talk about people and events that have formed this country and democracy. It's time to help our juniors understand how democracy works and the rights and responsibilities that accompany our form of government.



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*Making a Difference, Now and Always*

### *New Auxiliary Unit Chartered*

**Pike County #20, Alabama  
Chartered April 23, 2009**

## Reminders

- Submit only \$3.00 per year for junior members. Send appropriate per capita directly to state departments since national headquarters does not forward this distribution.
- Attend your state convention. Serve on a committee. Learn what other units are doing and share what you learn with the members that could not attend.
- Send in delegates and alternates on the yellow delegate listing form that has been sent to all units and state departments.
- National convention credentials are no longer being sent to the units and state departments which is why it is critical to send the names of all national unit delegates, alternates, and guests to national headquarters to assure proper registration. Convention delegates and alternates will receive a bar-coded letter which shall serve as their convention credential.
- **Adjutants** – If you are reading this newsletter, remember it is not your personal newsletter and is meant to be shared with your unit officers and **all** members.
- The *Headquarters News* can be viewed online under the *News and Events* tab at [www.dav.org/dava](http://www.dav.org/dava).
- To qualify for the free life pin, members must pay their life membership in full within one membership year, not one calendar year.
- The Member Count at the bottom of the Membership Listing includes all members affiliated with that unit and is not a reflection of total paid members.
- Units do not vote to accept new members; the only time members are voted for acceptance into the unit is in the event of transfer.