

# Headquarters News



# DAV Auxiliary



3725 ALEXANDRIA PIKE • COLD SPRING, KENTUCKY 41076

## MEMBERSHIP

We are encouraged by the number of units and state departments that have met quota for the 2008-2009 membership year. Congratulations!!! If your unit or state department is still shy of that goal, it's not too late since our membership year does not end until June 30, 2009. However, please try to have all membership sent in **no later than June 25** to assure that every membership application and payment are processed.

Remember, every time you sponsor a new member you have one more opportunity to win one of three \$200 cash awards. Also, the top recruiter will win \$300! Aside from building our membership, the opportunity to win some extra cash isn't a bad deal.

Keep in mind that, from now through the end of June, every new annual senior member application will be processed as a quota member which means they only have to pay one annual dues amount. Their membership will be paid through June 30, 2010.

New Members – New applications from our recent net prospect mailing are coming in and in as many cases as possible we are placing the new members in active units. Please review your monthly activity report and make the effort to contact new members. Just one person can make a difference and that one person could be the newest addition to your unit's roster.

Congratulations to the following state departments for making quota:

- Colorado
- Delaware
- Georgia
- Idaho
- Louisiana
- Maryland
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Nevada
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Oklahoma
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Wyoming
- Puerto Rico

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Total Membership as of May 31, 2009—158,363

## Here's Looking at You

Every member, unit, and state department are unique and achieve many accomplishments in the name of the DAV Auxiliary. We'd like you to share some of those accomplishments and tell us what projects are working for you. In return, we hope to highlight as many of those projects as possible in our monthly *Headquarters News* not only to give recognition to your hard work,

but to also pass on ideas and suggestions to other units and state departments that may be looking for new ideas.

This effort cannot go forward without your help. There are no small successes when it comes to helping veterans, their families, or the community. Take a few moments to write down your projects and send them to DAVA National Headquarters.

You can even e-mail us at [davamail@davamail.org](mailto:davamail@davamail.org).

We can *all* make a difference. In keeping with National Commander Sandy Dobmeier's theme, we are "*Making a Difference – Now and Always.*"

## AMERICANISM

By Donna Adams, National Americanism Chairman

*Are you a vexillologist?*

Flag Day, June 14th, marks the anniversary of the adoption by Congress in 1777 of the Stars and Stripes as emblem of the nation. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson suggested that June 14th be observed as Flag Day, but it was not until 1949 that the National Flag Day Bill became law, giving official recognition to 14 June to celebrate the flag.

There is no record of why red, white, and blue colors were chosen for our flag. However, in 1782, the Congress of the Confederation chose those colors for the Great Seal of the United States and listed their meaning as white to mean purity and innocence, red for valor and hardiness, and blue

for vigilance, perseverance, and justice. According to legend, George Washington interpreted the stars as taken from the sky, the red from the British colors, and the white stripes signified the secession from the home country.

Betsy Ross was an upholsterer who prayed in the pew next to George Washington and had already sewn buttons for him. She was also a niece of George Ross, Pennsylvania's representative to the Continental Congress. Both Washington and Ross were on the flag committee for the Continental Congress.

The flag proposed by the committee was square, with six-pointed stars scattered on the blue field. Betsy Ross changed the design to one that is one-

third longer than its width and replaced the stars with the five-pointed stars we recognize today. The 13 stars representing the colonies were placed in a circle so that no one colony would be viewed above another.

On June 22, 1942, President Roosevelt approved the Federal Flag Code, providing uniform guidelines for the display and respect shown to the flag. The Flag Code does not prescribe any penalties for non-compliance nor does it include any enforcement provisions, rather it functions simply as a guide for voluntary civilian compliance.

A *vexillologist* is someone who studies flags or the history of flags.

## HAVE YOU SEEN NATIONAL COMMANDER SANDY?

By Judy Perry, National History Chairman

I know she has been busy traveling around the country to many different events, conventions and conferences. If you have seen her and have any pictures of her as she has visited your unit, state department or an event in your area of the nation, please share those pictures with Sandy by including them in her history book.

Please take a minute to send me the pictures you have of her. Also, if you would, please write the event, date of the event and the names of the persons in the photo on the back of the photo or on an enclosed piece of paper. Mail them to: Judy Perry, DAVA National History Chairman, 415 S Henry Apt 10, Pierre, SD 57501.

REMINDER: ALL STATES SUBMITTING A HISTORY BOOK TO BE JUDGED AT NATIONAL CONVENTION MUST FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES THAT ARE IN THE YELLOW AUXILIARY MANUAL.

## NATIONAL DAV AUXILIARY FALL CONFERENCE

The National 2009 DAVA Fall Conference will be held September 24—26, at the Drawbridge Inn, 2477 Royal Drive, Fort Mitchell, Kentucky 41017. Toll-free reservations: 800.354.9793 Direct: 859.341.2800. Room rates are \$78, plus applicable taxes. Free Parking. Additional information is included in the May month-end mailing.

A tour of DAV National Headquarters is arranged for the afternoon of Thursday, September 24, starting at 12:30 p.m. Due to the national headquarters condensed work week schedule which calls for Friday closure of some of the departments, the DAV has suggested we schedule tours for Thursday.

Make sure national headquarters is advised of member and guest attendance as well as the names of those interested in taking the tour. **Advance notice of tour participation is required.**

## V A V S

By Frances Costa, National VAVS Representative

I hope that everyone is enjoying Spring (At Last) and that all are feeling energized and ready to get back to work volunteering at our VA Medical Centers and Outpatient Clinics.

Our Veterans need us to help to make their days a little brighter. One might think that they do not have much to offer but you are wrong. We can offer conversation or physical assistance, as well as just being their. Volunteers are a vital link to the outside of the hospital environment.

Like all the VA programs, the Feeding Assistance Program needs help. The DVA VAVS understands the need to utilize volunteers in feeding programs and meeting the nutritional needs of our veteran patients/residents. The need to provide assistance to veterans at mealtime is greater than ever. Feeding Assistance Programs that utilize volunteers are already established in many VA facilities. These programs may be known by different names such as Silver Spoons, For Lifters, Caring Spoons, or Helping Hands to name a few. However, they all have the same mission: to assist patients/residents with feeding; to help meet their nutritional needs and to help make mealtime a more pleasant experience.

Patients/residents have different needs during meals. Often, patients/residents with the same types of needs are grouped together for

meals in the dining area. Independence makes a person feel good and helps them to keep their dignity, especially when they can do the activities of daily living, like eating. Examples of support you can give are: helping to get goods ready to eat (cut meats, open packets, butter the bread etc), identify foods for patients/residents who are visually impaired, assist with feeding for hard to manage food items or just cueing and reminding the patient/resident to eat slowly and swallow the food.

The rapidly changing demographics in the United States will create health care needs for the growing older adult population that is unprecedented. Because of these trends, our families will be significantly challenged. Volunteers are greatly needed now, and will continue to be needed in the future to assist with patient/resident feeding programs in VA facilities nationwide.

You will be properly trained to assist in all VA programs. Consider becoming a Regularly Scheduled VA Volunteer. Contact your respective VA Voluntary Service office and get registered.

The need is great, the numbers are shrinking. Thank you to all the registered volunteers, Reps and Deps for all that you do. Which brings me to another note regarding volunteers. That is of Volunteer Recognition Pro-

grams throughout the country's VA Medical Centers. It that time of year again when Volunteers are recognized for their cumulative volunteer hours. Please keep in mind, when you think that you should be getting an award, remember that this is spring and the hours recognized now are for the terms from October 1 of 2007 through September 30, 2008. Any hours after September 30<sup>th</sup> will be awarded during the following spring recognitions.

It is important for our DAVA VAVS Representatives to report hours for volunteers and be sure they are logged. Volunteers should be signing in at their respective facilities on the days they volunteer but if for some reason that was not possible, please contact voluntary service and let them know the hours that you were there so they can update the computers.

Also many Annual Joint Reviews have been very slow coming in this year from our Representatives. This is how the VA tracks our organizations participation in VA programs and are prepared jointly between the Voluntary Service chief and the Representative. We need your help by increasing recruitment of volunteers. In December of this year (2009) all of our organizations Representatives and Deputies will be up for recertification.

## NATIONAL CONVENTION

Make your national convention reservations for the Denver Sheraton Hotel for the DAV/DAVA National Convention! The hotel's reservation number is: 303.893.3333 ~ Room rate: \$119.00 Single/Double. Elect delegates and send their names to DAVA National Headquarters on the yellow delegate listing form as soon as possible. Doing so guarantees mailing of credentials and a smooth registration process at the national convention.

With the new credentialing procedure, we ask all unit officers to comply by sending in the names of delegates and alternates in advance. Sometime in July or early August a bar-coded letter will be sent to those whose names have been submitted. This letter is considered their credential and must be brought to the national convention by the delegate and/or alternate. It will take the cooperation of units, state departments, delegates, and alternate delegates to make this new registration procedure a success. We look forward to seeing you at the national convention in Denver, Colorado.



## DAV AUXILIARY

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*Making a Difference, Now and Always*



### FLAG DAY

JUNE 14, 2009

*Oh, say does that star spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free  
And the home of the brave*

### Reminders

- Activity Reports are going to show many members as having changes of address as a result of marking member records of those attending the national convention. This is an ongoing issue with the membership system; one that we hope is rectified soon. Other actions on a member's record may also result in the posting of this message.
- If your unit is receiving an Indebtedness Statement from national headquarters, please remit the amount due to clear the indebtedness. Delegates at the national convention will not be able to register as such if the unit is indebted.
- Units and state departments are required to file an annual financial report. If one is not on file at the time of national convention, this will affect the registration status of your unit or state department.
- The accordance with the IRS, all units and state departments (with gross receipts of less than \$25,000) must file a Form 990-N. This is an electronic postcard and can only be filed on line. The IRS requires filing the 990-N within five months and fifteen days following the close of their accounting period. Units and state departments failing to file the electronic postcard could be in jeopardy of losing their non-profit status. Contact national headquarters if you need assistance.
- If members began their life membership on or after July 1, 2008, they can still receive a free life membership pin if the balance of their life membership is paid before June 30, 2009 (within one full membership year).
- Commanders, Senior Vice Commanders and Adjutants have the capability of generating unit reports on line. Visit [www.davmembers.org](http://www.davmembers.org); log in using your membership number and password. Then select *Request for Information*; sub-selection *Reports*; feel free to scroll through the reports available to you and experiment with various parameters. Make sure your computer is set to allow pop-ups from the DAV website. Contact national headquarters if you have any questions.