

Headquarters News



DAV Auxiliary



3725 ALEXANDRIA PIKE • COLD SPRING, KENTUCKY 41076

Mae Holmes

By Donna Adams, National Mae Holmes Chairman

With the holiday season just around the corner, we all have the opportunity to excel in all of our programs. Pearl Harbor Day, December 7th, is commemorated in a large number of communities, and I'm sure your Unit's participation would be most appreciated. Becoming a sponsor for Wreaths Across America is as simple as going online to their site of the same name. Christmas and Hanukkah give us cause for extra support of our local food banks and homeless veteran programs. We often make added visits to our local nursing homes, state veterans' homes, and VA medical centers; and our Junior Auxiliary members are thrilled to take part. A gift of Auxiliary membership makes the perfect gift for the "hard to please" relative, and including your legislators in your holiday card list will create a reference point when you write to them during the new year.

With these activities, you will have participated in all of our National programs – Americanism, Community Service, Hospital, VAVS, Junior Activities, Membership, and Legislation. Simply ask your members to turn in a list of their holiday activities at your next meeting, and compile them for inclusion on your Mae Holmes report form. I look forward to seeing the varied programs going on in our Units.

I wish you the happiest of holiday seasons and a healthy and joyous New Year. And to each of you, thank you for your service to our veterans.

Community Service

By Laurie Stopyra, National Community Service Chairman

Community Service is for giving. During this Holiday Season many of you will be volunteering in the VA and Nursing Homes. Others will be showing patriotism in the community through donating to Toys for Tots, Coats for the Poor and giving food to the Food Pantry. Others will be making cookies and cards for our Military. All these things and many more services will be done.

Sick and wounded troops are arriving at military hospitals without their personal effects and it often takes six months to receive their belongings. The **Jammies for GI's** project was developed to collect needed items and monetary donations to assist these wounded warriors. Letters and cards are also being gathered and forwarded to them because some wounded and sick soldiers do not have a forwarding address. For more information on this project visit their website at www.jammiesforgis.com or call **Jammies for GI's** (716) 695-6867.

Remember, when you fill out your reports Community Service can be done by one member or by your Unit. This program is great for our servicemen and women and their families.

The New Year is approaching quickly and I know everyone is busy. Take the time to reach out to our veterans and their families. Include yourself in Community events. We as DAVA members give of ourselves to make life easier for others

Correction: An error was made on my last Community Service article (October/November 2011). Junior Community Service hours cannot be counted on both the Community Service Report and Junior Activities Report. Count those activities on the Junior Activities Report. I apologize for the misunderstanding.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Mae Holmes	1
Community Service	1
Membership	2
Americanism	2
Hospital	3
History	3
Reminders	4



Give a gift of membership to your family and friends.



"If instead of a gem, or even a flower, we should cast the gift of a loving thought into the heart of a friend-- that would be giving as the angels give."

The holiday season is a time to open our hearts and give gifts to our loved ones that shares a piece of our life and our gratification. As members of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, we have given a piece of ourselves to serve the disabled veterans and their families. Why not give a gift of membership in the DAV Auxiliary to your family and friends? I know we all have family members and friends who are difficult to buy for, here is a perfect solution. The gift of membership is sharing a part of your heart.

**What do reindeer say before telling you a joke?
This one will sleigh you!**

**What do snowmen eat for lunch?
Iceburgers!**

**What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?
It's Christmas, Eve!**

**Why does Santa Claus like to work in the garden?
Because he likes to hoe, hoe, hoe!**

**How can you keep Santa busy on Christmas?
Give the gift of membership to lots of family and friends.**

Happy Holidays!

Patti Rapisand
National DAV Auxiliary Commander



Membership

By Susan Miller, Natl. Membership Chairman

If our membership does not grow, our organization will eventually die. We cannot let that happen. There are too many disabled veterans and their families that need our help and support.

Now is the time to start signing up your extended families. If all of us just get one or two to join each year, our membership could at least double every year. Giving a paid membership to an extended family member could get them started in our organization. You could give it as a Christmas gift, a birthday gift, anniversary gift, or just because you know they would become an active member in this great organization.

With the DAV being 1.2+ million strong, our auxiliary should be at least double that. I am sure that every DAV member has at least 1-5 eligible members. You can start there. Ask chapter members to bring their eligible family members to a meeting or have a special membership drive and let them know about it. Some units have a dinner and invite eligible members to it and recruit them at the dinner. It doesn't matter how; we ALL need to recruit!!!

Americanism

By Linda Stake, National Americanism Chairman

What a great month November was to have Special Americanism Programs! I hope you included a Special Program in your Veterans Day celebrations. In most communities, "The Empty Table" has never been presented during this time. Normally, parades, dinners, and other activities honoring our veterans are included on Veterans Day. Even though the POW/MIA Flag is flown honoring these special veterans, it is time for our communities to see the real ceremony - the touching, heartbreaking, tear-jerking, empty table ceremony!

If you did not include "The Empty Table" ceremony in your November events, please consider using it at another time. In fact, this would be a great program to present to the schools, communities or churches on December 7, Pearl Harbor Day!

National Report Forms -

The annual report forms have been mailed to state adjutants. If your state department participates in the completion/judging of these reports, units can expect to receive a mailing from the state adjutant within the next few months.

The report forms are also available online in both PDF and Word format and can be found under the Membership/Resources tab at www.davauxiliary.org. If you choose to use the online formats, you must complete the reports, print them, and mail to the address specified by your state department—**do not send to National Headquarters**. At this time, the PDF version is fillable, but not savable. The Word format can be saved to your computer.

Hospital (Non-VA)

By Patti Hicks, National Hospital Chairman

THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR! Although this is perhaps the busiest time of the year, the holiday season should also be the most wonderful time. Now that Halloween has been celebrated and Veterans Day observed, Thanksgiving came and went while we remembered all our blessings. Before we know it, some of us will be decorating, baking and wrapping gifts to go underneath our Christmas Trees. As we go through the holiday traditions, I am sure we will continue to visit, have parties, hold hands, etc., with our friends and veterans in the veterans homes and hospitals. With our concern for the veterans, most of us will be shopping, creating small gifts, and making plans to do something special for our shut-ins. These people are always happy to see us, but let us remember that this wonderful time of the year may also be the loneliest for our residents if they feel forgotten. Winter can be long, dreary and lonely for those confined to our medical facilities. Although we may tend to visit less and stay inside more to stay warm and cozy during the winter months, we still need to visit when possible. While we do many extra things during the holiday season, we must continue to cheer-up these precious people who need a smile and a visit after the holiday rush is over.

Remember, we don't have to celebrate Veterans Day once a year because we have veterans as part of our lives every day.

Remember, that because of our veterans we can give thanks and enjoy freedom as we gather around for the holiday feast.



Remember, we can celebrate Christmas our way because our veterans have made this possible.

Remember, as a Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Hospital Volunteer, let's do what we can, for whom we can, with what we have, and where we are!.....have you hugged a veteran today?

PS - National is no longer providing hospital badges for non-VA hospital volunteers. National is in the process of changing the recognition for volunteers in the Yellow Book. Certificates of appreciation may be requested from National at no charge. Thank you for all that you do each day. I wish each of you a happy and blessed holiday season.

PNC Outstanding Member Award

The Past National Commanders' Outstanding Member of the Year Award is presented to a distinguished member deemed the most outstanding for his/her accomplishments.

Any member can submit a nominee for the outstanding member of the year directly to national headquarters.

This is a very prestigious honor and the person selected by the national committee will receive an engraved plaque. In addition, the winner will be provided round-trip coach airfare and lodging at the 2012 National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Award forms have been mailed to each unit. At the present time, the form is available online in PDF and Excel formats under the Membership/Resources tab at www.davauxiliary.org.

It is our hope that the electronic versions encourage members to nominate a very deserving individual for the PNC Outstanding Member of the Year Award.

History

By Joyce Humes, National History Chairman

I'm working on National Commander Patti Rapisand's History Book. Since it is a history of her year as our Commander, I need help from all of you. Pictures of important happenings in your state; of Commander Rapisand's visits and the national guests who may come to your state; pictures of the District NEC's would be nice to include. The book wouldn't be complete without pictures of our Juniors and their activities.

I will do my best to document her year so that she will have wonderful memories of good times and good friends to look back on. Send photos to:

Joyce Humes
 9419 Stones River Drive
 San Antonio, TX 78245-2052

The DAV Auxiliary National Headquarters office will be closed from December 23, 2011, through January 2, 2012.



DAV AUXILIARY

Follow Us!

Patti Rapisand,
National Commander

Judith Hezlep,
National Adjutant

3725 Alexandria Pike
Cold Spring, KY 41076

Phone: 859.441.7300
Fax: 859.442.2095
E-mail: dava@davmail.org
www.davauxiliary.org



Same Team... Same Dream: Serving Disabled American Veterans and Their Families

New Auxiliary Unit Chartered

Rev. F. A. Kelley #38
Troy, New York
Chartered November 16, 2011

DAVA 4 Kids—Camp Corral Project

The Camp Corral project continues to inspire generosity and the creativity of Auxiliary units and members. Thanks to the members of our organization, the amount collected to pay transportation expenses of military children to experience a week of fun and excitement is up to \$2,534.20.

November Recruiter Winners

Congratulations to these recruiters whose names were drawn in November for a cash award of \$25 each:

Lisa Peterson, Indiana #15
Teresa Herrle, Texas 61

You, too, can receive a cash award by recruiting just one senior Auxiliary Member. Be sure to include your membership number in the sponsor section of the application.

Reminders

- **Auxiliary Manuals** are ordered from DAV Auxiliary headquarters. Other fraternal items are purchased through the DAV National Service Foundation. Call 877.426.2838, ext. 3252 or visit the online store at www.davstore.org.
- **DAV Jacket Orders** are ordered through the DAV. Call 859.441.7300, ext. 3252, or order online at www.davstore.org.
- **New Members** are not voted on for acceptance. Welcome new members and let them enjoy the opportunity of making a difference in the lives of veterans and their families!
- **E-Newsletter**—Sign up for the DAV Auxiliary's online newsletter. Log on to www.davauxiliary.org and click on the e-mail sign-up link at the bottom of the page.
- **Membership Listing** — The letters (J,S,F,P) located to the right of the membership numbers indicates the type of membership. J = Junior Member, S = Annual Senior Member, F = Full-Paid Life Member, P = Part-Paid Life Member.
- **Donations** — Make all donation checks payable to DAVA (or DAV Auxiliary) and earmark to designate which program is the recipient. For example: Education Scholarship, Service Support, Freedoms Foundation, HVWP, Camp Corral, etc.