

Headquarters News



DAV Auxiliary



3725 ALEXANDRIA PIKE • COLD SPRING, KENTUCKY 41076



Sign up at least five paid senior members and receive a special star recruiter pin!

The National Officers and national headquarters staff wish all our members a wonderful 2012! With the holidays now a memory and the long winter days settling in, what always remains constant are the needs of disabled veterans and their families. The vigilance of DAV Auxiliary members never wavers and we continue to remind legislators of the price veterans paid for the freedom we enjoy.

We hope for significant membership growth in 2012 and your help is needed. Don't forget the extended eligibility for DAV Auxiliary membership. With the membership eligibility expansion, it is easier than ever to recruit new members.

Three DAV Auxiliary State Departments Reach Quota!

The DAV Auxiliary State Department of **Delaware** (known as "The First State") has the distinct honor of being the first state department to make quota for the 2011-2012 membership year!

Also reaching the 2011-2012 quota milestones were the state departments of **Massachusetts** and **Puerto Rico**, respectively.

Membership recruitment is no easy task and the members of these three state departments are to be commended for their efforts!

Thank you and CONGRATULATIONS!!!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Americanism	1
Legislative	2
Scholarship	2
Junior Activities	3
Strategic Planning Article	3
Community Service	4
Reminders	4

Americanism

By Linda Stake, National Americanism Chairman

Nothing evokes such strong emotion as seeing our flag, either in a ceremony honoring a great event or draped over a coffin as a sign of mourning for one of our heroes.

Our flag symbolizes the love and pride that we have for our nation. It is a reminder of America's greatness and our fortune to live in a country which values freedom above all else. It signifies the commitment made by our fallen soldiers who battled bravely to defend the honor

of this sacred emblem. It exemplifies the devotion of our leaders who continue to uphold its promise of liberty, justice, and freedom for all.

The flag represents all people of America. We, the people, are America. It is little wonder that the people of America are moved when saluting the flag as it passes by, reminding us that we are a part of this great land. We are "one nation under God."

Legislative

By LeeAnn Karg, National Legislative Chairman

Year end reports are out and soon you will be receiving them if you have not already. I want to make you all aware of some changes to the Legislative Report. It is very important that you remember that there is a back side to the Legislative Report. This has been added so that you will have more room in which to write down the bills that you have addressed and to add the totals to the front side. Year end reports are so very important to the success of the Auxiliary. They allow us to understand what it is that all of you are doing and to give guidance to those that are in need of suggestions or are just new and learning about the Auxiliary. We can all learn from one another. Make sure you follow up with your contacts so that they know that we are counting on them to help us and appreciate their support. Please complete and send in your year end reports no matter how much or how little you were able to accomplish. Everyone is important to the overall success of this organization. YOU COUNT!

The National DAV Legislative Mid-Winter Conference is coming up February 26 through the 29 at the Crystal City Marriot in Arlington, VA. This will be a prime time to meet with your legislators and let them know how you want them to vote and what bills to support. On Tuesday, February 28, 2012, National Commander Don Samuels will be presenting our views to the joint Veterans Affairs Committee. I encourage you to attend this conference and to make our voices heard.

Some pending legislation to be working on:

H.R. 2148, amend title 10, United State Code, to extend military commissary and exchange store privileges to veterans with compensable service-connected disability and to their dependents

H.R. 2318, amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase the amount of the Medal of Honor special pension under that title by up to \$500.00.

H.R. 2424, amend the Small Business Act to ensure that certain federal contracts are set aside for small businesses, to enhance services to small businesses that are disadvantaged.

Remember "Same Team, Same Dream." Together we can do this.

National Commander Rapisand to Lay Wreath at Tomb of the Unknowns

National Commander Patti Rapisand will represent the DAV Auxiliary in a special Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery at 12:15 pm on Saturday, February 25, 2012. For those planning to attend the National DAV Legislative Mid-Winter Conference or who might be in the area on that date, you are welcome to attend this ritual.

DAV Auxiliary Scholarship Program

The postmark deadline for scholarship application submission is March 15, 2012.

For the 2012-2013 school year, full-time students may qualify for up to \$1,500 and part-time students may qualify for up to \$750.

Scholarship guidelines and application can be found at www.davauxiliary.org. Or, to receive the information by mail, call DAVA National Headquarters 877.426.2838, ext. 3318.

Junior Activities

By Ann Glende, National Junior Activities Chairman

As we approach a busy time of the year for everyone, what a great time to the opportunity to “adopt a junior”. Allow a junior to spend the day with you, while preparing for DAV Auxiliary meetings or volunteering at an event. Allow them to learn more about what the programs of the DAV Auxiliary are, while making them feel equally as important to the organization as they truly are. Allow them to lead your Unit in the Pledge of Allegiance or participate as a Unit Sergeant at Arms. Invite them to share some ideas relating to juniors and how units can continue to get them active. There is no time then the better to get our juniors ready for the future.

Personally, my dedication to the Auxiliary started at a young age. My mom allowed me to go under her wing and learn about the DAV Auxiliary, its programs, and mission. From there on out, I grew to appreciate and understand the Auxiliary; became shadows of many of our State and National leaders, both past and present; and it allowed a variety of doors and opportunities to open for me. We want all of our juniors to feel exactly the same way. The manual states they are a vital part of our organization, and there is no denying that statement. But the only way we can keep them vital is by making sure they are vital, never idle.

Our junior stars are everywhere now, volunteering in VA Medical Centers, Veteran Homes, Nursing Homes, and even community events. Allow them to bring a friend and educate them on the Auxiliary, too. One door open can lead to a world of opportunities. Don't forget them when they have birthdays or special events; a simple card or call to say hello can make the difference in knowing that you truly care, and they truly are your stars.

I hope everyone is actively recruiting their friends and families to donate to DAVA 4 Kids Camp Corral program. I would love to hear success stories and see pictures! What a great way to showcase our stars! They are truly making a difference in the lives of children around the United States. They are fulfilling our mission. There is nothing more amazing than that! Units and States should consider assisting, too! The more we can raise, the more children we are able to help.

It's never too early to start planning to bring your junior to the National Convention; big plans are under way for some fabulous events and it would be wonderful to have as many of our DAV Auxiliary junior stars there as possible!

Thank you to everyone for everything they do everyday for the DAV Auxiliary!

The Power of Asking

By Donna Tanner, PNC, Strategic Planning Membership Subcommittee Chairman

Last year we asked the DAV Auxiliary to open our eligibility for membership to extended families so that our organization could grow. We asked and we voted to ratify our constitution to include these family members. We all have heard the old adage, “Ask and you shall receive.” Asking can be a powerful tool. It seems as if we got what we asked for then stopped asking the people to join us. Many times people are not aware that they are eligible for membership until you ask them to join.

Many eligible members are not aware of the important work we do until we ask them if they have heard of our advocacy. We need to put the power of asking into action. Here are several suggestions from the Strategic Planning Committee to assist in asking for help to grow our membership.

*Ask people to join.

*Ask the Chapter if they will assist with an Auxiliary membership drive by placing information in their newsletter.

*Ask the family members of new DAV members to join you at your meeting.

*Ask National Service Officers for assistance in signing up Auxiliary members when signing up new DAV members. Remind them of the cash award for the NSO with the highest number of DAVA members recruited.

*Ask local State/Community Colleges to place applications and brochures in the veterans outreach centers.

*Ask your State/County/ City Veterans Service Agents if you can leave information regarding the Auxiliary with them.

*Ask potential members to visit our website and social media sites for current information regarding the Auxiliary.

Remember, you have nothing to lose by asking.



DAV AUXILIARY

Celebrating 90 Years
1922 - 2012

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

Follow Us!



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

New Auxiliary Unit Chartered

Gwinnett County #90
Snellville, Georgia
Chartered December 14, 2011

December Recruiter Winners

Congratulations to these re-
cruiters whose names were
drawn in November for a cash
award of \$25 each:
Minnie Amerman, Florida #65
Geneva Begley, Kentucky #64

*By recruiting one paid senior
Auxiliary member you are eli-
gible to receive a cash award.
Be sure to include your mem-
bership number in the sponsor
section of the application.*

Community Service

By Laurie Stopyra, National Community Service Chairman

The Holidays are over and our lives will be slowing down. Now we can focus on retrieving all the information to begin our Community Service report. Remember if you did anything for the Community, document it and get credit for the service you provided. Over the Christmas holiday everyone should have gotten Christmas cards. Did you remember to keep the stamps? Try clipping coupons at your next Unit meeting; our Servicemen/women and their families need your support. The reports can be found on the DAVA website. Most State Department Adjutants will also be mailing report forms to the Units. Make sure you fill them out and send them back to your State Departments by the proper due date.

Reminders

- **Annual Dues Changes** – Units establish their own annual dues amounts, but the amount must cover national and state per capita. If your unit has changed its annual dues amount, submit this information to DAVA National Headquarters no later than February 17, 2012. The 2012-2013 annual dues notices will be mailed in early March.
- **Adjutants** receive all unit mail. As the officer responsible for unit mail, it is their responsibility to communicate the information received to the commander and to bring all mail to unit meetings for the information of the unit members. This is not the personal mail of the Adjutant.
- **Indebtedness Statement**—If your unit membership distribution has not satisfied the \$25 national mandate, an indebtedness statement will be included in the December month-end mailing. Indebted units will not be permitted to vote at state and national conventions.
- **Indebted Units** will not be permitted to vote at the national convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. Financial reports and mandate payments **must be submitted to national headquarters prior to the national convention** as units cannot be cleared for voting at the convention as has been done in the past.