

Headquarters News



DAV Auxiliary



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Quota Achieved!
Delaware
Maine
Massachusetts
Puerto Rico

NATIONAL HOSPITAL (NON-VA)

By Patti Hicks, National Hospital Chairman

THIS TIME OF THE YEAR SIGNALS THE TIME TO STEP OUT OF THE WINTER BLUES AND DO SOMETHING SPECIAL for the people that we care about in our hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, State homes, etc. If you are still searching for your talents to help others, I know that you have gifts of encouragement, appreciation, awareness, listening, and love that have hardly been touched. With the arrival of February we think about hearts and flowers and I pray that we will spend time with those who do not hear "I love you" very often. I hope we can visit, talk, and especially listen to our friends who are trapped in their last stages of life. The more we listen to them the more our hearts are softened to their needs and concerns. By involving your unit in the non-VA hospital program you will be able to spread love throughout your entire community.

Happy Valentine's Day!

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?

Community Service

By Laurie Stopyra, National Community Service Chairman

What can we do for Community Service this month? Did you have a Valentine making project? With winter in full swing it may be time to go visit shut-ins. There are so many things you can do. Give less fortunate families a food card, make a meal and share it with your neighbor, make a food basket for an ill neighbor or veteran in your neighborhood, shovel snow or just retrieve a neighbor's mail, clean a house for a disabled person. How about the coupons? Collect soda can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, collect food for your local pantry. Donate money for fuel oil or pay an electric bill. These are just a few things you could do. Call your local schools and ask them if your unit can come listen or read to the Children, copy papers for a teacher or assist with special events. All these things are considered Community Service.

The report forms have been mailed to your Unit Adjutants. It is time to start working on your Community Service report. Keep track of all the work you do and take it to your unit meeting to be listed on the Community Service Report.

I am hoping we get a lot of reports this year. Let's give our chairman reports from each state for judging. Remember we are volunteers and we belong to the greatest organization which is the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

Strategic Plan Update

Sandy Dobmeier, Chairman

Progress is continually being made on the goals set by the Strategic Planning Committee to accomplish this year. The three sub-committees, Membership, Standard Operating Policies, and Communication & Technology have all been working very hard. Monthly online meetings are being held with each committee as well as a monthly online meeting of the Core Strategic Planning Committee to keep all members of the committee up to date on the progress being made.

The committee is continuing to work with our SCORE Counselor, Marty Densmore, and Action Coach, Wayne Bergman. Their expertise and knowledge has been very helpful as we work to achieve our goals.

The short term goals set for this year are much the same as last year with more detailed goals set for each committee to accomplish. The short term goals set for the Strategic Planning Committee are:

- Review and enhance recruitment efforts and develop new projects of interest to current and potential members.
- Cultivate new fundraising initiatives to aid and assist veterans, their families, and the National DAV Auxiliary organization. Establish a new fund to be used for innovative special projects for veterans and their families.
- Provide improved communication and education on all levels using social media and technological opportunities.
- Revise and print marketing materials by national convention.
- Develop curriculum and schedule leadership and member training at all levels, create marketing initiatives for greater organization exposure, use social media and technological opportunities to their fullest extent. Continue to explore new project ventures to assist veterans and their families.
- Discuss fundraising opportunities with the DAV National Headquarters staff.
- Create a pleasurable environment for our members at all organization functions.
- Create officer guidelines for all levels.

The Communication & Technology committee is working on increased usage of social media to help promote our organization as well as provide information to our members. Sign up to be a “friend” of the DAV Auxiliary Facebook if you have not already done so (the link can be found on our website www.davauxiliary.org). You can also join the Auxiliary’s Twitter network. Website improvements are continually being made. Now available is a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) page to assist members, units and state departments. More fillable forms are being added to make it easier for officers and chairmen to complete various reports. The Membership committee is working on improvements for our membership brochure, ways to market our auxiliary, and increase awareness of the eligibility. Membership recruitment tips will also be found on our Facebook page. The Standard Operating Policy committee is developing guidelines for unit, state, and national officers. These guidelines will help officers understand their duties and what is expected of them. They are also working on ideas for education and training for our national convention and fall conference.

The Core Planning Committee is developing a brochure on the Strategic Plan that will provide an overview of the plan including the goals, issues, and strategies. The committees are all working very hard to help improve our organization. We would like you to submit any ideas or suggestions you may have for our Auxiliary to national headquarters. Suggestions for Facebook and Twitter topics area also always welcomed. The more we can communicate with our members and prospective members the better our organization will be.

Past National Commander—Katherine Pearson

Past National Commander Katherine Pearson passed away on January 18, 2012. Katherine served as DAV Auxiliary National Commander in 1987-1988.

A woman of faith and compassion, Katherine served as a devoted ambassador for the organization and staunch advocate for disabled veterans and their families. The DAV and Auxiliary was a family commitment; her husband, Lyle, also served as DAV National Commander. Her involvement was not limited to veterans’ issues and the local community benefited from her kindness. Katherine’s influential role in the 90 year history of the DAV Auxiliary will not be forgotten.

National Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service

Frances Costa, VAVS Representative
Ellen Drogo, Deputy VAVS Representative

We hope all of our Auxiliary members and families had a joyous and healthy holiday season. Now that the holidays are over, we need to get down to work with recruitment and retention of volunteers at our VA Medical Centers and Out Patient clinics. There is a major need for VAVS Reps and Deps. Many facilities have no DAV Auxiliary representation and you can make a difference by accepting one of those positions. It really is easy if you communicate with the Voluntary Service Department at the VA facility and attend quarterly meetings.

The veterans we serve need us desperately to take up the slack created by the loss of volunteers for multiple reasons, mostly health. With the aging population of World War II and Korean era volunteers, we need to recruit volunteers for our voluntary service programs. Contact your unit members and encourage them to become VA volunteers. This is not only the duty of the Representatives and Deputies but we all need to be proactive members of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary and encourage membership and volunteerism.

We have been working on many Annual Joint Reviews but there are still many that have not been completed. We ask all of the VAVS Representatives to please make an effort at their respective medical centers to be in touch with the voluntary service chief and complete the Annual Joint Review. This annual form helps the organizations and the voluntary service chiefs to see where weaknesses lie and hopefully remedy the situations and thus increase volunteerism.

In reading the quarterly minutes of the VAVS meetings it is also evident that many of the VAVS Reps or Deps do not attend the VAVS quarterly meetings. The Reps and Deps need to pass this information on to the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary volunteers so they are aware of events pending within the VAMC's and also what comfort items, etc., are desperately needed by our veterans. The quarterly minutes most always have a list of items requested and also a listing of activities for the year where volunteers are needed.

If your unit would like to become active in VA Voluntary Service, contact your local VA Medical Center's voluntary Service and/or your DAVA Representative for assistance. Our veterans need all of us to become active. Think about becoming a Regularly Scheduled Volunteer. Being regularly scheduled means that you commit to a specific event or day each month or week to volunteer. Then there are Occasional Volunteers, who may only be able to come every other month or so but they also still need to be registered volunteers.

We hope the New Year finds you well and with a renewed spirit of volunteerism!

Keep National Commander Rapisand's theme alive—SAME TEAM---SAME DREAM!

Same Team of Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary volunteers with the Same Dream of service to our veterans.

Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge

By Judy Hezlep, National Adjutant

Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge provided National Headquarters with information on their 2011 Programs.

With the donation sent from the DAV Auxiliary last year three individuals received scholarships to attend the American History Workshops two of whom were veterans. A total of 91 teachers attended the 2011 workshops covering the Civil War in the East,

the American Revolution in the North and the Revolution in the Middle States.

The Freedoms Foundation program experienced difficulties in recent years and has recently undergone a complete changeover in staff and executive positions. I now feel that the program is back on the right track. For several years, we were unable to obtain information about the

scholarships, programs, etc., and did not make donations to them as a result of this lack of communication.

Now that information and material is being sent from Freedoms Foundation, we will once again support this program. Your donations will be used to give scholarships to teachers attending these workshops with priority being given to veterans.



DAVAUXILIARY

Follow Us!

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

New Auxiliary Units Chartered

Barron County #52 **Orange Park #38**
Rice Lake, Wisconsin **Orange Park, Florida**
Chartered January 13, 2012 **Chartered January 27, 2012**

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

Julie Raulerson, Florida #11
Ellen Drogo, Massachusetts #29

By recruiting one paid senior Auxiliary member you are eligible to receive a cash award. Be sure to include your membership number in the sponsor section of the application.

National Commander Testimonial Dinner: National Commander Patti Rapisand will be honored at a testimonial dinner Saturday, April 14, at the Petroleum Club of Fort Worth, Jacobs Carter Burges Plaza, 40th floor, 777 Main Street, Fort Worth, Texas. Social hour will begin at 6:00 pm with the dinner to follow at 7:00 pm. Cost per person is \$50 and reservations are required. Purchase dinner tickets no later than April 1, 2012. Make checks payable to **DAVA Department of Texas Testimonial Dinner** and mail to David Rapisand, 10145 Locksley Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76126. Call 817.312.4090 to advise of any dietary restrictions or in the event of questions. Room reservations to be made directly with Marriott (800.627.7468) and refer to **DAVA Room Block**. The Blackstone Courtyard by Marriott is located downtown at 600 Main Street, Fort Worth, Texas. (817.885.8700) Room rate is \$149, plus tax. Reservation cutoff date is March 23.

Reminders

- **Online Forms** — Several fillable forms can now be found online at www.davauxiliary.org. Among the forms now available you will find: the Transfer Request form, Annual Financial Report form, Officer Report Form, Past National Commanders Outstanding Member of the Year submission form, and Scholarship Application. Also recently added is a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) page.
- **Sickness and Distress** — As part of the meeting ritual, there is a call for sickness and distress notifications. Out of respect for our members and their families and in accordance with the HIPPA privacy laws, please refrain from detailed personal information about another person. We suggest comments be limited to stating that a person needs cards or prayers unless the individual has requested their situation be shared. Even with their permission, use discretion in your comments.
- **Communication**—While e-mail is extremely cost-effective and a prompt method of communication, keep in mind that not all members have e-mail. Those members who do not have e-mail, are as deserving of all unit/state communications as those with e-mail and should not be excluded. Communication is the key to success!
- **State Standing Rules**—Can only be changed at a State Convention! Each and every change must be presented to the convention body and voted on by the convention delegates. Convention Rules must also be voted on at the State Convention by the delegates. Remember, no changes can be made at a State Conference or by a Standing Rules Committee until they are voted on at a State Convention.