

Headquarters News

DAV Auxiliary



3725 ALEXANDRIA PIKE • COLD SPRING, KENTUCKY 41076

From the Desk of National Commander, Donna Adams.....



Thank you to all our members for making the 2012 Fall Conference such an awesome three days! All the officers and chairman did a great job of presenting their programs and carnival booths, and the remarks I heard about the break-out sessions were very positive. We all know that we can plan and plan, but if the audience we're trying to reach isn't receptive, all the planning in the world can't make a successful event. Our members came with the idea of having a good time, participated in discussions, and took advantage of the learning opportunities presented. Each and every one of our attendees made the conference memorable.

I really want to thank all the break-out presenters and recognize Louisville NSO Supervisor Randy Bunting, CHAMPVA Program Analyst Dewayne Glenn, and HVWP Director Jerry Brown for the wonderful information they provided. Our time spent with DAV National Commander Larry Polzin, and Executive Directors Mark Burgess and Barry Jesinoski was insightful and gratifying. Once again, our very own Past National Commanders hosted the DAVA "jail," but I think they were way too diligent in their judicial duties. I know I was arrested and incarcerated four times and never even got a trial! The money they collected for bail, the donations made by Units and State Departments nationwide, and the individual gifts by our members for the Scholarship Fund will certainly help our national programs succeed.

Wasn't the hotel staff wonderful? We couldn't have asked for better cooperation, but that didn't just happen by accident. National Adjutant Judy Hezlep and Asst. Adjutant Pat Kemper did an outstanding job – again – with forming relationships and making terrific arrangements with the hotel. Our National Staff supplied us with wonderful handouts and take-aways, made attainable agendas, provided us with a fabulous audio/visual presentation, and attended to special needs of our members. They were also very accepting when told that any symptoms of a nervous breakdown must be scheduled at least six months in advance. Thank you all!

Following the conference, I had the pleasure of traveling to North Carolina to attend their Mid-winter Conference. The members there reinforced how DAVA members can disagree on issues without letting them interfere with personal relationships and our mission of helping disabled veterans and their families. I think those who attended came away with a better understanding of the State Department structure and greater appreciation for the members who accept positions to benefit the organization. Once again – The Key is Understanding.

I wish each of you a happy Thanksgiving and urge you to include a member of your Unit that may be alone in your family's celebration of our blessings and our freedom.

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Hospital

By Linda Bailey, National Hospital Chairman

Our Hospital Program in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary is designed to offer members the opportunity to fulfill our mission for our Veterans through volunteering for the Non-VA hospital Program.

During fall conference we had a very informative training on all the great programs that we have to volunteer showing our appreciation for our Veterans and their families. I hope we all enjoyed the Chairmen's presentations and the carnival. I would like to challenge each unit to make your own goody bags for our Veterans (make sure you contact the Hospital, Nursing Home or caregivers to see what items would be appropriate). I contacted my local nursing home to ask questions regarding Veterans activities and was told that most nursing homes have a volunteer coordinator that needs volunteers to assist the patients with projects. The nursing home I talked to told me they post a FLAG beside the Veteran's name on their door to honor them for their service to

our country, they have a garden named **The All American Hero Garden** with red, white and blue flowers. This would be a great project that your unit could assist your local nursing home with.

With all the Holidays coming up it, can be a depressing time for a Veteran that has no visitors. Take your Junior volunteers to visit our Veterans. The history they will learn is priceless!

Please remember our Veterans need our help all during the year!

I would like to have your personal stories about your success on volunteering for the Non VA Hospital. Please feel free to email me with your stories or questions at

lindabailey930@charter.net

There were some questions about how to count hours of working on projects at our homes, such as lap blankets for our Veterans. I contacted DAV National Voluntary Service to get a clarification on counting hours on the DAV Local Veter-

ans Assistance Program. Yes we can count these as DAVA members on the DAV Local Veterans Assistance Program (see guidelines on LVAP program).

So let's have a recap!

DAVA Non-VA Hospital - (Hours) you can count only the hours you did your volunteering at general hospitals, nursing homes, state hospitals, Veterans residents and other such facilities on your Non-VA Hospital reports.

DAV Local Veterans Assistance Program known as LVAP is where DAV/DAVA volunteers can receive credit for donating time to further the DAV's mission. DAVA members can submit volunteer hours that cannot be counted on **VAVS or Non-VA Hospital program**. Your DAV State Depts. have an appointed LVAP person who can submit your hours for credit. LVAP volunteer hours are eligible toward applications for the Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship.

Volunteer~Volunteer~Volunteer

History

By Iris Brzezinski, National History Chairman

It's hard to believe it is November already. The 2012 National Convention and Fall Conference are now history. It is now time for me to begin assembling the Commander's History Book and I really need your help. Pictures that you have taken at these events are needed for her book.

Pictures and memorabilia of any events that Commander Donna Adams participates in throughout her year would also be appreciated. How about at least one page for each State? Send pictures of your State and Unit Officers and special events in which your state or unit participated.

The pictures can be sent to me via email at irisa13@aol.com or by mail to my attention at DAVA National Headquarters, 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076.

DAVA Bylaw Books NEC—District 3

District #3 National Executive Committee Member Ann Schatz of Rhode Island was omitted from the newly revised DAV Auxiliary Constitution and Bylaw books during the final printing process. District #3 is comprised of Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Ms. Schatz is currently serving the second year of her term as 3rd District NEC.

Membership

By LeeAnn Karg, National Membership Chairman



Go For The Gold – That is the slogan I have chosen for this Membership year and I hope I can count on all of you to travel this journey with me. I would like to challenge all of you to sign up at least one new member this year. That would double our membership numbers. Please say that you will help. We have so many opportunities for new members with the new eligibility requirements. You can sign up members through your membership in the Auxiliary if the potential member does not have a veteran related to them personally. Ask your friends and neighbors if they would like to belong. Many people tell me that no one has ever asked them, so don't pass any one up. You may just be passing up a new member.

It takes members to give us the edge when we talk to our congressmen. They will take note if we have a strong following because it equates to votes and that is very important to them. Members also make it possible to do all of the work of the Auxiliary and to assist the DAV in their work. United we can do anything.

Did you know that it only takes \$20 to start a New Life Membership? If you pay off that membership within one Auxiliary year you are entitled to a free Life Membership pin. How does that work? Well, if you start your life membership payments in June, you only have the month of June to pay it off as the Auxiliary year runs from July 1 through June 30. If you start your Life Member payment in July, you will have the entire membership year to pay it off in order to receive the Life membership pin. Many states have membership incentive programs so find out if your state does. This could help in getting new members also. You can also make quarterly installments over a three-year time period until it is paid. Be sure to check the back of the application to determine what the cost of that membership will be based on the applicant's age.

First and foremost, remember the National Membership incentive program! As a recruiter you can receive a Bronze Star if you recruit 5 new paid members, a Silver Star if you recruit 10 new paid members or a Picture Frame Clock if you recruit 15 new paid members (senior members). The Picture Frame Clock will be engraved with "Go For The Gold 2012 – 2013." Your name will go into the monthly drawing for \$25.00 for the Recruiter of the month. Make that someone you! Let's all work together and "GO FOR THE GOLD!"

DAVA 4 Kids

By Patti Rapisand, Past National Commander

In 2011, the DAV Auxiliary began a program - **DAVA 4 Kids** - which focused on raising funds for children of deployed active duty military, veterans, or disabled veterans to assist with financial support for transportation to Camp Corral. We had a wonderful, very successful first year with a \$10,000 donation to Camp Corral. The Juniors started the action by collecting change, then, private donations began coming in and, pretty soon everyone was involved. The program was considered a huge success. Of course, we would like to continue with this exciting program.

While you are planning your activities for the year, don't forget about DAVA 4 Kids. We need the same enthusiasm and participation as we had last year. Hearing the beautiful stories from the kids, the parents, and Dolly Mercer (our contact with Golden Corral) have been very emotional, thrilling, and touching. Some of these kids and their families have been through some very upsetting experiences. Camp Corral has helped to mend many hearts. Continuing this program will allow many more hearts to be opened and changed.

If your unit and Junior's had a particularly successful project, please be share with all of us. We all need new suggestions. Here is a fun suggestion to use at a meeting or gathering:



If your birthday is in:

- January** Pay \$.10 for each year of your age up to 35 and \$.05 for each year after.
- February** Pay \$1.00 for the first 100 lbs. of your weight and \$.01 for each additional pound.
- March** Pay \$.10 for each letter in your first and last name.
- April** If your hair is gray, pay \$1.00, black \$.75, white \$1.25, brown \$1.25, blond \$2.00, red \$1.50, dyed and any of the above colors plus \$.05
- May** Pay \$.10 for every inch around your waist.
- June** If you eyes are gray pay \$1.00, blue \$1.25, brown \$1.50, green or hazel \$1.75.
- July** Pay \$.25 for the size of your shoe. (Size 7 will pay \$1.75, etc.)
- August** Pay \$1.00 for the American Flag.
- September** Pay \$.25 for each letter in your birth stone.
- October** Why worry? Just pay \$2.00.
- November** Pay \$1.00 for each sister, \$.50 for each brother and \$.75 if you have a spouse.
- December** Pay \$.25 for each letter in your birth month.

Let's keep the **DAVA 4 Kids** program moving!



DAV AUXILIARY

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Follow Us!



The Key is Understanding

New Auxiliary Units Chartered

West Haven #18
West Haven, Connecticut
Chartered October 18, 2012

Mitchell County #58
Bakersville, North Carolina
Chartered October 24, 2012

Veterans City #68
Branson, Missouri
Chartered October 25, 2012

Reminders

- **990-N e-Postcard** — It can't be stressed enough—All DAV Auxiliary Units are required to file the 990-N e-Postcard annually. Failure to do so will result in IRS revocation of the unit/state department's non-profit status. There are no exceptions to this requirement. The reinstatement process is costly and takes months to achieve. Entities that have had their nonprofit status revoked by the IRS must apply for reinstatement or their DAV Auxiliary charter will ultimately be revoked. Please comply with this IRS requirement. Units and state departments are to submit a copy of the submission confirmation of filing the annual 990-N e-Postcard to national headquarters.
- **Unit Meetings** — Meeting changes (location, date, time) must be made by vote of the unit members at a regular business meeting, followed by notice to all members.
- **At-Large Members** — Members of an at-large unit have no governing authority. They can have no voice or vote or participate in any governing action. This includes PNC's, PSC's, or any member at-large — *per Kathryn Wiley, PNC, National Judge Advocate*
- **Bylaw Books** — Revised constitution and bylaw books are now available. The bylaws can be found online at www.davauxiliary.org by selecting the Membership/Publications tab. Bylaw books may be purchased for \$2 from: **DAV National Service Foundation (DAV NSF), 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076.** Make checks payable to **DAV NSF.**
- **Orders** — DAV Auxiliary fraternal items are now ordered through DAV National Service Foundation at the address in the previous bullet point. The only sale item handled by the DAV Auxiliary is the Auxiliary Manual. They are ordered through DAV Auxiliary at a cost of \$15 each. The manual may be downloaded at www.davauxiliary.org by selecting the Membership/Publications tab.
- **PNC Outstanding Member of the Year**—Forms are being sent to each unit and can also be found on the website under the Membership/Resources tab.