

# Headquarters News



# DAV Auxiliary



3725 ALEXANDRIA PIKE • COLD SPRING, KENTUCKY 41076

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

Last week as I was preparing dinner to celebrate Thanksgiving, I had time to reflect on the many gifts I've been blessed with. Included is the opportunity to have met and visited with so many of you around the country and share in the wonderful work you're doing for our veterans and their families.

For Veterans Day, I had the great pleasure of visiting Alabama for their National Veterans Day celebration. What an awesome trip! I arrived in Birmingham on Saturday and was met by Alabama's DAV Adjutant Chad Richmond who drove me to a beautiful, historic hotel. I had time to unpack before dinner with DAV and DAVA state officers, and National DAV Sr. Vice Commander Joe Johnston and his wife Vicki.

Sunday began with all of us together for lunch before visiting the 21-acre Veterans Memorial Park. A winding 1,000' trail leads to 36 columns of artwork and sentiments, and a Temple of Honor displays the names of Alabama's war dead. It's a beautiful and inspirational park. We arrived back at the hotel in time to change clothes to attend a service honoring Raymond Weeks, "The Father of Veterans Day." From there we went to the convention center for a lovely reception and awards dinner. Our own Joe Johnston presented an emotional keynote address for the dinner with well over 500 people. As we left the event, the weather turned cold and rainy, just as forecasted.

Monday morning, we braved the weather for a memorial service at a beautiful cathedral near the hotel honoring Gold Star Wives and then we were off to a World Peace luncheon back at the convention center. The program included the National Anthem performed by Miss Alabama. It was one of the most beautiful renditions of the Star Spangled Banner I've ever heard. We left the luncheon just in time to make it to the Veterans Day parade, and on the way the clouds parted and the rain stopped. Thousands of people lined the streets to honor our veterans and stayed for the whole parade. I felt truly honored to take part in the procession and while I waved and waved, I was thankful for whoever provided me with a car that had heated seats.

Monday night, we joined up again to go to Golden Corral for Veterans Day dinner. We were able to see so many Birmingham veterans, and knowing that many of you were doing the same thing in your community gave me a real sense of DAVA all over the country. I fell into bed that night wondering how in the world everything we did was in just a couple of days. It was an amazing trip and I want to give special thanks to Chad Richmond, DAV Commander Charles Fisher, and Auxiliary Commander Carolyn Harris for everything they did to make Veterans Day in Alabama so very special. It is a memory I will always treasure.

I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a safe and Happy New Year.

DAV Auxiliary National Headquarters Office will be closed from December 21 through January 1, 2013.

Membership applications and/or payments received after December 13, 2012, will be processed in January.

Happy Holidays to our members, their families, and those serving our great nation.

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## Membership

By LeeAnn Karg, National Membership Chairman

**Go For The Gold** – How are we all doing? Are you out there getting those memberships? I know that I can count on all of you to make this our best year ever! Thank you for your hard work and enthusiasm. The Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary is the BEST!!

Don't forget you can convert to life with just \$20.00 as a down payment and then make quarterly installments until the full amount is paid. If you pay it all at one time you will receive a Life Membership pin or if you pay off your life membership in one Auxiliary year, you will receive a Life Membership pin (that means the entire amount of your life membership is paid off between July 1, 2012, and June 30, 2013.) What a deal!

18 – 30 years of age	\$250.00
31 – 45 years of age	\$230.00
46 – 60 years of age	\$200.00
61 – 70 years of age	\$180.00
71 years of age or over	\$140.00
Over 80 years of age	Complimentary

If you choose to make installments, you will have three membership years to pay it off. Should you be unable to complete the payments in three years and have not paid enough to achieve the annual life membership local, state, and national distribution, your membership will be classified as INACTIVE and will remain on the unit membership list for one more year. If you are still "Inactive" after the one year of being inactive, your membership will be moved to state at-large for a period of three membership years. Following those three years and if full payment has not been made, your membership will move to national at-large. You can still be moved back to your original unit by paying the remaining balance in full. This is a really good opportunity to pay for a life membership and not have to worry about those annual membership dues.

Do you have membership applications? Be sure to carry one with you at all times. I actually carry three with me. You never know when you may run into someone that would like to join the DAV Auxiliary. We were at a function two weeks ago and I was talking to some friends about the DAV Auxiliary and all we do and they asked how they could be involved. I signed up two new Life members that night. If you need applications, just write or call National Headquarters and request to have some applications sent to you.

**Unit Adjutants:** Always have applications on hand at your unit meetings. Lay them out on the table so members can pick them up and start recruiting. They are free so keep them available for all of your members. Don't forget some Auxiliary Brochures also. Give one of these to a prospective member so they can read and study it. It is a very good tool to help you recruit members. Recruiting is not hard, you just have to ask the question, "Would you like to belong to the DAV Auxiliary?" You might be surprised.

Let's all **GO FOR THE GOLD** together.

## Americanism

By Frances Costa, National Americanism Chairman

The elections are over and we cannot all have our candidates win. Whether Republican, Democrat, or Independent, I hope you exercised your right to vote. We, as Americans, need to show support to the elected President, Senators, and Congressmen when they take office in January. For those incumbents that did not get reelected, continue to contact them while they are still in office to make them aware that we still continue to hold them accountable to and for our military and veterans.

You must also contact and support your local and state elected officials as well and let them know you want to be apprised of any new pieces of legislation. In that way you will also support

the National Legislative Chairman in their duties.

We just observed Veterans Day, and Pearl Harbor Day is upon us. Keep track of these events to help you with your Americanism report at the end of the year. Keep track of your participants and the activities your unit members supported and attended. I hope all our members, families, and friends when celebrating Pearl Harbor Day remember and honor the sacrifices of all our active duty and veteran military members and their families. Remember! Since Pearl Harbor our nation has fallen victim to other acts of terrorism. We, as Americans, must be vigilant and show support for our government deci-

sions whether we agree with them or not otherwise we show a sign of weakness and vulnerability.

I would enjoy hearing from you throughout the year especially in what you may be doing in your units to educate our youth and especially new citizens. Keep our veterans and their families in your prayers, especially those who have been so adversely effected by Hurricane Sandy along the East Coast, those who continue to be without the necessities of everyday life and have yet to live through another NorEaster'. God bless them and protect them all.

Be mindful that "The Key is Understanding." I wish you all a very special holiday season.

By Ann Glende, National VAVS Representative

Are you a new VAVS Representative? Or have you been a representative for many years? It's always important to remind yourself of your duties and responsibilities. That is where the Auxiliary Manual comes in. If you look to page 100-101, you'll find all of your job duties, as well as those of the deputy and associate deputy. You can find the manual online at [www.davauxiliary.org](http://www.davauxiliary.org) or even purchase one from National Headquarters for \$15.00.

It's important to familiarize yourself with the duties so that it makes for an easy year at your local VA Medical Center. For example, did

you know one of the job duties of a VAVS Representative is to assist in recruiting new volunteers for the local VAMCS? Did you know that you're also responsible for submitting the names of your DAVA National Commander, DAVA National VAVS Chairman, DAVA National VAVS Deputy and the DAVA National Adjutant to your Chief of Voluntary Services?

In reviewing the quarterly minutes from VAVS Meetings, I have noticed that a lot of our representatives are without deputies. I have also noticed that we have many Representatives and Deputies that are no longer certified. It's important that we recertify

or reappoint Representatives and Deputies every two years.

Also, please remember that your Chief of Voluntary Services should have completed your annual joint review in September. I have not received very many, but have returned the ones I have received. Please make sure that you're speaking with your Chief of Voluntary Services to remind him/her to complete these with you and your Deputy as soon as possible. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact myself or my Deputy Shirley Ashmore. We are here to assist you in any way that we can.

## Mae Holmes

By Susan Miller, National Mae Holmes Chairman

For my first article, I want to give everyone some information on Mae Holmes, PNC. There is little information on her so I am sharing some of what I have found and some that was given to me. This information was given at the National Fall Conference, but I know that many of you were not there. I hope you enjoy learning about her, as much as I did.

Mae Holmes was from Detroit, Michigan. In 1949-1950, she was State Commander of Michigan. In 1951-1952, she served as the NEC for the 8<sup>th</sup> District. Lucille McCarthy also served as NEC at the same time, 1951-1952. In 1952-1953, Mae Holmes was elected National First Junior Vice Commander; 1953-1954, she served as National Senior Vice Commander, and Lucille McCarthy was elected National 2<sup>nd</sup> Junior Vice Commander the same year. In 1954-1955, Mae Holmes was elected to serve as the National Commander. Lucille McCarthy was appointed to serve as the National Publicity Chairman by Mae Holmes, National Commander.

Three Past National Commanders, Catherine Early, Vi Hoffman and Thelma Feighner selected individual Auxiliary programs and purchased traveling trophies to be presented in their name to outstanding Units.

Mae Holmes believed that an outstanding Unit was a Unit that participated in all programs of the Disabled American Veterans. Therefore, she purchased a traveling trophy that was given in her name to the Unit that had the MOST OUTSTANDING WORK IN ALL PROGRAMS OF THE AUXILIARY.

In April 1987, Katherine Pearson, then the National Senior Vice Commander, sent a letter to all Units and States telling them about the Mae Holmes Award. This is a quote from the letter: *"The History Report is used for the selection of the Mae Holmes Award with just the Senior Member activities being considered. The NEC from each District will select several reports from her District and then the reports will be turned in at the National Convention for the Mae Holmes Convention Committee to select the outstanding report in each of the membership groups. Even though it is the History Report that is being used, please, keep in mind only the following Senior programs will be considered: Membership, Americanism, Hospital, Legislation, VAVS and Community Service."*

As the organization grew, so did the need to change to the present day method of awards, which did away with the traveling trophies but kept the name of the respective awards. In addition, the awards were changed to four (4) awards to fit the Auxiliary's membership categories. We no longer have a History Report, but now rely on the Mae Holmes Reports.

The Mae Holmes is the only award requiring a Unit to meet quota by April 1<sup>st</sup> since she felt membership was necessary in order to continue all other programs. I hope all units are working on making quota this year so there will be a lot of reports to judge. With our open membership eligibility, everyone should be able to get at least one new member. You can do this by signing up an extended family member. You can do this for their Christmas present, birthday present, or just because you know they are interested and would become an active member. Also, if all Units and States make their quotas, National will make their quota again!!!!

Merry Christmas to all!! I hope you have a wonderful holiday season and a healthy, happy New Year!!



Donna Adams,  
National Commander

Judith Hezlep,  
National Adjutant

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Follow Us!



*The Key is Understanding*

### Junior Activities

By Ruth Gates, National Junior Activities Chairman

Happy Holidays to each of you from our Junior membership. I hope this article finds each and every one of you happy and healthy. I wanted to take a few moments to share some holiday ideas and thoughts with you about how we can best utilize our Juniors this holiday season.

**Gifts:** If you have a young person eligible for membership in the DAV Auxiliary, consider paying their Junior membership dues through their 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. It helps our membership numbers obviously, but also gives the young person a feeling of being wanted. I would suggest you provide them with a membership card of their own as well. The National Fall Conference have a sample sheet of blank membership cards and a template is available at [www.davauxiliary.org](http://www.davauxiliary.org).

**Caring and Sharing:** You might be thinking – does he or she really have any new ideas to share? Even though many Units may be facing financial or attendance challenges, our Juniors still have plenty they can share with others. They have smiles and laughter which are two of the greatest gifts we can share. Consider taking them caroling at the nursing homes - contract VA and Non-VA. It only takes a little time out of your day, but the rewards for all are tremendous. If you choose to take home-baked sweets, please make sure you discuss that with the facility administrator as many of the folks in the nursing homes are on dietary restrictions.

If you have an elderly member in your Unit with physical limitations, you might consider having the Juniors prepare a simple meal and take it to them. It doesn't have to be during the Holidays, but it surely brightens the homebound person's day and you will be rewarded as well. If you do this during the Holidays, pick up a few items such as apples, oranges, bananas, or some other personal items. It does not have to cost much, but the thought means a lot.

**Giving Back:** Juniors work all year helping with our programs by volunteering at the VA if they can, helping out at meetings, collecting money for DAVA 4 Kids, and many other projects through their school and church activities. Plan a little party just for them. You might plan a game day such as board games, video games, etc. You can take them bowling, for miniature golf, or even skating. Out-of-pocket costs for these types of events are minimal. Try to have a small, inexpensive thank you gift for them if possible.

The opportunities for Service are endless. However, remember a Senior member must be present at any functions your Juniors are at. I have a friend that says, "That is 15 minutes of my life I won't see again" when something bad happens. But the time and energy we invest in our Juniors is priceless and fruitful. Be a mentor, be a friend but most of all be there for the Juniors.

#### File IRS Form 990-N e-Postcard

- Without exception, all units and state departments are required to file the Form 990-N e-Postcard if gross income is less than \$50,000.
- Failure to do so for three consecutive years (beginning 2007) results in nonprofit status revocation.
- Failure to apply/receive reinstatement results in Auxiliary charter revocation.
- Units—send a copy of filing confirmation to state and national headquarters.

*Sign up a new DAV  
Auxiliary senior  
member and you  
are eligible for the  
monthly recruiter  
drawing of \$25.*

Go for the Gold!

