

Headquarters News

DAV Auxiliary



3725 ALEXANDRIA PIKE • COLD SPRING, KENTUCKY 41076

Congratulations to the State Departments that have achieved 2012-2013 membership quota.

Arizona
 Florida
 New Mexico
 North Carolina
 South Carolina
 Vermont
 Puerto Rico

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

April was packed full with wonderful events beginning with Snowmass, Colorado, for the Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. I was able to spend three days and actually witnessed the "miracle on the mountain." Over the short time I was there, I saw a young veteran have a transformation that I would have thought couldn't happen. He arrived as an unhappy man who lost a leg and left as a proud veteran who still controls his life and makes his own opportunities to excel. What a great program!

I arrived home to help with the final plans for my testimonial. I can't begin to say how much I appreciate all the people who took part in making it a night I will never forget. My chapter and unit went all out for me, old friends and family were there, and DAV and Auxiliary members from all over the country attended to make it a truly fabulous event. Saying thank you seems so inconsequential; I love you all and will always hold you all so dearly.

The next weekend took me to Long Beach, California, for Commander Polzin's testimonial. It was apparent that Larry has earned the respect he deserves by the members of his state and across the nation. The gala was held on the Queen Mary and while I didn't see a ghost face to face, something caused the removal of all the bed covers from my mom who doesn't *ever* sleep that way. It was an exciting trip.

After a couple of days at home, I was off to Puerto Rico. What a great bunch of Auxiliary and DAV members. Caguas was beautiful, the weather was ideal, and the convention was great. All the members were so patient with me. Thank you, Commander Pagan, interpreter Iliana, and all you wonderful members. If the airlines had cooperated, it would have been a perfect trip, but at least I think I qualify as a citizen of Miami now.

With a two day turnaround, I took off for Kansas City for a wonderful Americanism program. We toured the WWI National Memorial and museum. It's awesome to see the WWI equipment and uniforms from all over the world the museum has acquired, along with displays of the trenches and encampments our own military used in the "War to end all wars."

In the afternoon we went to the KC VA Medical Center for a tour, but spent the entire time visiting with Director Kent Hill. It was a terrific meeting. The Americanism program held at Chapter 2 in KC featured three sixth graders reading their own essays. These kids did a great job and I was privileged to present a flag to their school. Dinner was cooked and served by the unit, and then we all attended their unit meeting. Thank you to the unit and state members for all their kindnesses.

From there I flew directly into Kentucky for the annual finance meeting. Once again I was in awe of the great job our Adjutant Judy Hezlep and Assistant Adjutant Pat Kemper do in managing our finances. What is a little disturbing though, is the limited financial support for the programs our members have voted at conventions to continue. These include our Education Scholarship Fund, the Service Support Fund, Camp Corral DAVA 4 Kids, and the Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. I fully realize the challenges our units and states are facing, but these are our programs. Let's all try a little harder to include these programs in our donations.

So now it's time to continue my journey. I hope to see many of you along the way but if I don't, remember that I'm thinking of you with fondness.

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Americanism

By Frances Costa, National Americanism Chairman

Honoring America's Women Volunteers: On June 10, 2012, Melody Mathews submitted (along with a proposal) to both the White House and 90 members of Congress (to help recognize women who have volunteered and served) a ribbon she designed.

Little recognition has been given to the brave women who volunteered to serve our great nation dating back as far as the Indian Wars. Since that time, over two million women joined the military and took part in every war and conflict our country has faced. Now is the time to acknowledge and reward our women warriors for their bravery, sacrifices and loyalty to the United States of America.

The Ribbon Design has a black stripe on each end of the ribbon which represents the brave Women Warriors who voluntarily sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. The Yellow and White stripes encasing each wide band were chosen to honor all women volunteers, past and present, who served in the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard. The Black letters "WV" found centered within the Marine Corps Red band stand for "Woman Volunteer."

This information was taken from Veterans Watch volume 3 of the Summer/Fall 2012 issue 2, page 3 – A newsletter written by Veterans for Veterans at the Providence Rhode Island VAMC.

Our founding fathers have given us a wonderful gift and our military has sacrificed mightily to help us keep it. BUT – whether we keep or squander it is up to us.

Memorial Day is rapidly approaching – please show your Patriotic American Spirit by participating in parades, Memorial Day Observances in your community, and also at State and National Cemeteries. Bring your children and grandchildren with you – remember "The Key is Understanding."

On that note, I would like to share with you a book I am reading titled "The Bonus Army – An American Epic" by Paul Dickson and Thomas B. Allen. It is awesome reading beginning in May 1932. Anthony J. Principi, U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs, alluded to it (the Bonus Army) in a March 14, 2001, speech to the Smithsonian's Wilson Library on "Veterans as Revolutionaries." He said – "History is littered with governments destabilized by masses of veterans who believed that they had been taken for fools by a society that grew rich and fat at the expense of their hardship and suffering." This is just one of many exceptional reviews on this American Epic. If you enjoy history and want to understand more about what our veterans experience please read it. "The Key is Understanding." How true it is.

*Henry James
once said...*

*"I think Patriotism
is like Charity---
it begins at home."*

From National History Chairman...Iris Brzezinski

Wow this year is flying by. Commander Donna has been very busy traveling and will be attending *nine* State Conventions. As her National History Chairman, I am asking for help from all Auxiliary Members. Please take pictures of Commander Donna's activities when she attends your convention and forward them to me for inclusion in her history book. Pictures that were taken at her Installation, Fall Conference, Ski Clinic, etc., would also be greatly appreciated. A big thanks to Joyce Humes for all the pictures she has sent. Looks like Texas will have a large section in the Commander's History Book.

2013 National Fall Conference
Hilton Netherland Plaza
35 W. 5th Street ~ Cincinnati, OH 45202
513.421.9100
October 3-5
\$119 Single/Double
\$144 Triple
\$169 Quad

**Year End Membership
Submission Deadline is
June 25, 2013!**

Community Service

By Craig Johniken, National Community Service Chairman

It is that time of the year when units are working to get all their reports together to submit for judging. I hope everybody has all of their Community Service volunteer hours reported so nothing is left behind.

I began to wonder how many people in the United States volunteered through community service, so I went to my good friend Google. It turns out that in 2011, 63.4 million Americans or 26.3 percent of the population gave 1 BILLION hours of volunteer service. This has a 173 billion dollar value nationwide. It makes me proud to be in an organization that contributes to these overwhelming numbers.

Upon learning the total hours volunteered nationwide, I decided to compare those figures to the numbers that we have through the D.A.V.A. This is where I ran into a problem. We CANNOT get an accurate accounting of our community service or other program volunteer information due to the fact that not all state departments participate in completing/judging the annual program report forms, particularly the Mae Holmes report. If each unit tracked their volunteer services and reported them, it would give our organization an accurate accounting of member activity in all our programs. That gives us a means to validate and promote our volunteer programs and encourage membership growth. To those that do complete their program reports, I would like to wish each of you good luck when the judging begins.

| Value of a Volunteer Hour, by State: 2011 | | | |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Please note that 2011 is the latest year for which state-by-state numbers are available. There is a lag of almost one year in the government's release of state level data which explains why the state volunteering values are one year behind the national value.</i> | | | |
| Alabama: \$18.26 | Indiana: \$18.33 | Nebraska: \$17.10 | South Carolina: \$17.20 |
| Alaska: \$21.96 | Iowa: \$17.55 | Nevada: \$18.97 | South Dakota: \$15.99 |
| Arizona: \$20.08 | Kansas: \$18.45 | New Hampshire: \$21.70 | Tennessee: \$19.42 |
| Arkansas: \$16.77 | Kentucky: \$17.91 | New Jersey: \$25.91 | Texas: \$22.57 |
| California: \$24.75 | Louisiana: \$19.33 | New Mexico: \$17.62 | Utah: \$18.19 |
| Colorado: \$22.43 | Maine: \$17.03 | New York: \$28.73 | Vermont: \$18.00 |
| Connecticut: \$28.26 | Maryland: \$23.05 | North Carolina: \$19.09 | Virginia: \$22.90 |
| Delaware: \$23.02 | Massachusetts: \$27.43 | North Dakota: \$19.18 | Washington: \$22.69 |
| Dist. of Columbia: \$34.04 | Michigan: \$20.63 | Ohio: \$19.23 | West Virginia: \$17.57 |
| Florida: \$18.85 | Minnesota: \$21.91 | Oklahoma: \$18.28 | Wisconsin: \$18.50 |
| Georgia: \$20.77 | Mississippi: \$15.58 | Oregon: \$19.33 | Wyoming: \$19.54 |
| Hawaii: \$18.14 | Missouri: \$19.00 | Pennsylvania: \$21.25 | Puerto Rico: \$11.39 |
| Idaho: \$16.13 | Montana: \$15.73 | Rhode Island: \$19.82 | Virgin Islands: \$16.03 |
| Illinois: \$23.19 | | | |

National Chaplain, Carol Rundell

A MOMENT OF SILENCE

As we prepare for memorial ceremonies across the country, let's take a moment of silence and to offer our most sincere condolences to those families whose loved ones were taken from them during the past tragic events – most recently in Boston, Massachusetts, and West, Texas. We tell them that our thoughts and prayers are with them. This time reminds me of a poem a very good friend, who has passed away, gave me many years ago. The author is unknown.

He Sends Comfort

*In sorrow He sends comfort
To take away the pain.*

*In drought He sends the power
Of love, down with the rain.*

*He gives us quite an outreach
Unlimited; called prayer.*

*He gave us life; sometimes bittersweet,
But gives us strength to bear.*

*He did not promise glittered pathway
Or ever-steady pace.*

*But instead, He would be with us
And supply sufficient grace.*

*But through the darkest valley
Or on mountain's highest rim*

*Give thanks and praise to the one.
We owe it all to Him.*

While in attendance of the memorial services and ceremonies you may attend, please hold up and remember all that have lost loved ones and keep them in our hearts. May they rest in peace.

Source: www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time

DAV/DAVA National Convention ~ Orlando, Florida Orlando Hilton

6001 Destination Parkway, Orlando, FL 32819—407.313.4300
\$124 Single/Double

- August 8—Registration
- August 8—Auxiliary NEC Meeting
- August 9—National District Meetings
- August 10—Joint Opening Session
- August 10—Convention Committee Meetings
- August 10—DAV Natl. Commander's Reception
- August 11—Auxiliary Business Session
- August 11—Fun Night
- August 12—Auxiliary Business Session
- August 12—Forget-Me-Not Luncheon
- August 13—Final Auxiliary Business Session
- August 13—Introduction of Natl. Officers & Dinner

Tentative Agenda—Subject to Change



DAV AUXILIARY

Donna Adams,
National Commander

Judith Hezlep,
National Adjutant

3725 Alexandria Pike
Cold Spring, KY 41076

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

Follow Us!



The Key is Understanding

New Auxiliary Units Chartered

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Arlington #157 Arlington, Texas Chartered 4-9-2013 | Eastern Shore #61 Onley, Virginia Chartered 4-19-2013 | Toms River #24 Toms River, New Jersey Chartered 4-24-2013 |
|---|--|--|

Recruiter News



Go for the Gold Snow Globe (15 Members)

Snow Globes are personalized with the recruiter's name inscribed.

April recipients:

Carol Avanzato, Virginia #4
Ellen Drogo, Massachusetts #29



Sign up a new paid DAVA senior member through June 30, 2013, to become eligible for the monthly recruiter drawing of \$25.

Membership

A search of synonyms for "Membership" results in the following powerful words: *affiliation, association, involvement, connection, relationship, participation, inclusion, devotion.*

Membership is the force that propels this organization and allows us to impact the lives of disabled veterans and their families. A thriving membership gives a louder voice when communicating with our nation's legislators. Each and every member counts and each and every member is important.

To date, seven state departments have achieved 2012-2013 membership quota with just ten state departments needing fewer than ten members to realize their respective quotas. Nationwide, we need 384 members to reach quota by June 30, 2013. With your help, we can and **will** do this!

In more than 90 years of existence, DAV Auxiliary's eligibility requirements have never been easier for recruiting new members. Potential members are out there! Contact delinquent members inviting them to your next meeting or function. Personal contact may be all they need to renew their interest.

Let's make May and June banner recruiting months and get those membership numbers growing! Sign up 15 new paid senior members and receive a personalized Snow Globe. Recruit five or more new paid senior members and receive a recruiter star lapel pin. Membership deadline submission is Monday, June 24, to assure processing of all dues payments.