

DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News

3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076

November 2014

From the Desk of National Commander LeeAnn Karg...

The weather here in Minnesota is starting to turn cold and that means that Veterans Day is coming. We need to be thinking about what we can do to make this day special for our veterans. Get together with your chapter and do something for the veterans in your area. Maybe serve them a simple lunch of soup and sandwich or some cookies or bars and a warm beverage. Decorate your hall with pictures of all the things that DAV and Auxiliary offer. Keep our veterans foremost in your mind and make sure they know they are not forgotten.

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, too. And what a wonderful time of year to thank our veterans for all that they have done to make sure that you and I have the freedoms they fought for. Many have given so much for this country and we are very lucky to live here and to enjoy all the freedoms we have.

I am off to Birmingham, Alabama, for their Veterans Day Celebration November 8 - 12. What an honor to be part of this large celebration. I am looking forward to it. Following Veterans Day, I will travel to Mayetta, Kansas, for the 15th District meeting where they will be having a workshop on getting the word out. They will be talking about communications, public relations, and exchanging ideas on what is happening in the District.

Save the Date:

2015 National Convention
 August 8-11, 2015
 Denver, Colorado

2015 National
 Fall Conference
 October 1-3, 2015
 Lexington, Kentucky

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History by Donna Henshaw, National History Chairman

If you were fortunate to be able to attend the dedication ceremony of "The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial," I would appreciate pictures for our National Commander's History Book. I am also looking for individual pictures of our National Officers, NECs, National Chairmen, and State Commanders.

History Books not only tell the story of our National and State Commanders' years of service, it is an accounting of what our organization has accomplished with our important service programs. These programs do make a difference in the lives of our veterans and their families! My address is 145 Sheryl St., Marquette, MI 49855, Phone (906-249-3608), E-Mail s.henshaw@sbcglobal.net.

Thank you and have a wonderful holiday season!

On behalf of the staff at National Headquarters, we would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to the men and women who have fought for the freedoms we enjoy today. We would also like to wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving. Remember to keep those who are not able to celebrate with their families in your thoughts.

National Headquarters will be closed November 11, 27, and 28, 2014.



Membership by Frances Costa, National Membership Chairman

Our responsibility to Membership does not end with recruiting. In truth, a seemingly simple act of service can take days, weeks and even months of planning. But often the end result is a great day of selfless giving and receiving even when it is not a tangible item.

At our meetings, during our volunteerism in the community, or VA facilities, we should all leave a little something behind like a glad heart, a renewed spirit or just a memory of being cared about for our membership.

At our meetings, we need to get down to business, yes; but we also need moments of levity. I don't mean jumping to our feet and dancing in place, but some light-hearted banter as well as our important business that must be accomplished. We need to make our meetings interesting and worth coming back to. Sometimes this is all it takes to get members to leave their comfort zones and become more proactive in the unit.

What good are our Bylaw books if our members do not have one or don't read it? I would like to challenge all of our units to purchase Bylaw books for the unit members so that everyone knows what should be done and how it can/cannot be done. Some members must really watch their pennies and by the unit purchasing the books for them, it would be a service to the unit and the members. This also will help alleviate the fact that many members say, "I didn't know that" or "no one ever shared that information." You get the picture? Leadership development does not happen by accident. We need to develop strong unit leaders. Assign a member to a committee. That is how we learn about the different committees. If a member is reluctant, offer to guide them; give them advice and direction but do not do the job for them—so they will be comfortable when they give their reports at meetings. Don't waive or dispense with reports at meetings in order to make the meeting quicker. These members work on a committee and should be heard and recognized for their time and work.

Remember "Together as One" the DAV and Auxiliary can achieve making better lives for our veterans and their families.

Mae Holmes

by Linda Stake, National Mae Holmes Chm.

Members, I know everyone is working hard in different areas – such as, Americanism, Community Service, Junior Activities, Legislation, and VAVS to name a few. You want your unit to be the best in the State, the Nation!

Mae Holmes is the report that compiles all of your work together. It shows units, states, and the nation the good work you do. The Mae Holmes report is the last of the annual reports to fill out. On this report, record the total number of miles, hours, donations, etc.

Make sure the unit has reached quota by April 1 in order to be in the Mae Holmes competition. Remember: If you win Mae Holmes, you are the best!

VAVS

by Patty Davis, National VAVS Representative
Rose Williams, National VAVS Deputy Representative

What an honor to be serving as this year's National VAVS Representative and Deputy. We will work harder than ever to ensure units are informed on facility-related news and changes, and will also try to find fun and exciting ways to encourage volunteerism.

Our theme this year is H-A-P-P-Y. As many of you saw at National Fall Conference, Dave and Stuart, our astute volunteers, work extremely hard to ensure that the veterans they volunteer for are happy and able to find a smile, even during the toughest of times. Some of the activities many volunteers participate in include visiting patients, serving dinner, reading books, listening to music, playing games, and helping with crafts. We must also remember the other tasks that volunteers can do, including serving on a hospice unit, working at a facility welcome desk, and assisting in the chaplaincy program. Often-times, volunteers forget about the small parts of the facility that make the facility a whole. *Remember: You can be the smile that has been missing for years. You can be the happiness that wipes away the tears. You can be sunshine that moves away the gray. You can be the reason a person laughs today.*

Americanism by Ellen Timmerman, National Americanism Chairman

November 10	Marine Corps Birthday (Marine Corps only)
November 11	Veterans Day
4th Thursday in Nov	Thanksgiving Day
December 7	Pearl Harbor Day
December 17	Pan American Aviation Day (embassies in Lat. Am.)
December 25	Christmas Day

I believe flying the flag of our county is the best way to show our Americanism, our Patriotism, and to honor those who have served and fought to protect us.

The days listed at the left are the days that are recognized during the months of November and December as "*U.S. Special Flag Flying Days.*"

November 11 is the one day we truly honor all Veterans, so please do something to show them how much we appreciate what they have done for us. You can do something as simple as telling a Veteran "Thank you for your service." It really does mean a lot to them and it will make you feel so much better, too.

During Fall Conference a few examples were given about the correct way to credit things that you did for your Americanism Reports. It seems a little clarification is needed so we can keep an accurate record for filling out our reports. The activity that you do such as giving a flag to a school, registering voters, encouraging people to vote, or helping a person to become a citizen is credited to Americanism. The time you spent, the mileage, and any money involved is put on your Community Service Report. If you have any questions please feel free to write or e-mail me. I will do my best to answer your questions or at least I will try to find the correct answer.

I hope we are practicing Americanism every day by proudly flying the flag of the United States of America and honoring our Veterans.

God bless all of you for what you do. Keep up the good work.

Please Note: The Auxiliary Membership Department will not be accepting **prepayments** for annual or junior dues. Only annual membership payments for the current 2014-2015 membership year, expiring June 30, 2015, will be processed. To avoid membership payments being returned, units should refer to the membership listing prior to submitting annual dues. Contact national headquarters in the event of questions. Thank you for your cooperation.

Legislative by Craig Johniken, National Legislative Chairman

If you do not become a part of the decision making, we will be left behind!

As members of a veterans' service organization, we have the distinct responsibility to let the men and women we elect know what bills we support and do not support. By joining the DAV Commander's Action network you will be able to stay up to date on what bills are being considered and what they may mean to you as a Disabled Veteran's spouse.

When you make an appointment to visit or write one of your representatives, you need to keep in mind the following:

- ◆ Be Prepared - know what the issue is and what impact the outcome of their decision may have on you and/or your family.
- ◆ Don't be Rude - when speaking to your representative, you do not want to make them an opponent by being confrontational. Simply state your concern over the bill and how it impacts the veterans and their families in your area.
- ◆ Remember, We are Nonpartisan - it is irrelevant what party you support; you are there to speak on an issue that you need the representative's support on.

Do your part in making sure that the elected officials know where we stand and what we expect. None of us wants to be left behind!

www.davauxiliary.org



Making a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families.

DAV AUXILIARY

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DAV and Auxiliary, Together As One

Community Service by Dorothy Reese, National Community Service Chairman

At National Fall Conference, we learned about what makes up community service. Our organization is great because of each and every one of you who volunteer your services. Each of you are caring, sharing, and making the auxiliary great.

October Recruitment Award Certificate

Lucy Godfrey, FL 158

Sign up 20 new senior members and receive a \$30 gift certificate to the DAV Store!



C	Caring for others by helping those that are housebound or in a nursing home.
O	Opportunity knocks, so open the door! You will find that each one that Opens gives you a sense of accomplishment.
M	Meals that are easy to make are also the easiest to pack up and deliver to a neighbor or friend.
M	Meeting new people in the community allows members to continue to educate others on the organization and our mission.
U	Unite with others, whether in your unit or community.
N	Need of others is our top priority. Doctor visits, grocery store runs and more will go a long way.
I	Intentionally going out of your way to help others shows you care.
T	Trade and professional services are often overlooked. Consider using your talents to help someone out.
Y	You all make the difference.
S	Special projects and programs are often forgotten about. Don't forget about historical projects, LVAP, and tutoring.
E	Entering into your community with diligence, whether one hour a week or more shows that you care.
R	Reaching out to others, including those in nursing homes and your neighbors.
V	Volunteering in your community is where it all begins!
I	Inspiration is spread to those in the community by those who volunteer.
C	Church is a great place to get involved. Options are endless.
E	Entertainment and recreation activities are not only fun but they're also easy to organize!

New Auxiliary Units

Greater Daytona #84
Holly Hill, FL
Chartered 10-20-2014

Rusk County #33
Ladysmith, WI
Chartered 10-20-2014

Tawas Bay #130
Tawas, MI
Chartered 10-27-2014

Congratulations &
Welcome!

Don't forget to order your new Constitution and Bylaw book! They're available for \$2.00 at www.davstore.org. To purchase yours, please call 877.426.2838 Ext. 3252, email sales@dav.org, or send orders to DAV National Service Foundation, 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076. Please make checks payable to NSF.