

DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News

3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076

April 2015

Congratulations to the units that have achieved quota so far for 2014-2015! Remember, the membership year does not end until June 30, 2015, so there is still time to recruit!



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Community Service by Dorothy Reese, National Community Service Chairman

READY, SET, GO!!!!

We have heard all year that the Annual Reports are to be READY by the date that your Adjutant has posted on the reports. Once you receive your reports, there are SET procedures to follow. We must fill in ALL blanks whether or not you have done anything in that field. When your reports are completed, review each page for signatures, all blanks filled, senior/life members, and all monies/donations accounted for. Then you are SET to forward a duplicate to your State Adjutant and be sure that you keep a copy for your Unit's records.

As community service, it means COMMUNITY SERVICE. This does not include running errands or taking care of your family. Community service is

exactly what it says. Taking a neighbor to a doctor's appointment, a pharmacy run for a friend, helping someone with clothing because of a fire, providing transportation to the grocery store because that person does not have a vehicle or cannot drive, sitting with a veteran while their spouse runs errands.

Participate in special projects/ programs in your area—Museum or historical projects such as cleaning up cemeteries that have been neglected, or tutoring. We could go on forever and not cover everything. There are always questions asked at every conference or convention about what is to be done through community service. Just ask yourself, "Is this project a service that will benefit a member/s of my community?"

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

Now is the time to sit down and review the outstanding work that the units have done this past year. As you fill out your annual VAVS report, remember to use the VAVS Table of Values which can be found in the Auxiliary Manual.

As we have gone through the annual joint reviews, we have seen such great work being done by the VAVS Representatives and Deputies. There was, however, one common factor on all of the reports and that was a decline in volunteer hours. We know that life gets hectic, but there are many programs available through the Voluntary Services department that could be made useful for those who cannot volunteer on a regular basis. This includes hospice, recreational, and social service volunteers. As a VAVS Representative and Deputy, make sure that you're reaching out to people with limited schedules and explaining that these types of opportunities are available.

If you haven't met with your Voluntary Services Program Manager this year to complete your review, be sure to get this scheduled as soon as possible. These reviews are confirmation of DAV Auxiliary representation in the VA facilities and that we're continuing our mission of service.

Membership by Frances Costa, National 1st Junior Vice Commander

As of April 1, we were 1,035 below quota on the population summary reports and if you look at your unit copy of the population summary, you will notice that there are 3,013 one-year delinquent members and 1,797 two-year delinquents. In my last article, I mentioned that retention of members was very important and we in our units need to keep on top of the membership rosters that show if members are active or inactive. If you do not have a Membership Chairman, the Unit Commander and Adjutant should be working on this together.

If we can retain these delinquents, we will be over our National, State, and Unit quota by 3,772 members. Go to your Chapters; ask for their support in recruitment of new members. Remember, it is in the asking—each member asks one and before you know it we can make quota. DAV and Auxiliary “together as one.”

If your unit has not met quota by April 1, that is okay. You still have until June 30th to make this year's quota so don't give up, but keep in mind that you need to submit the applications to national headquarters for processing in time for them to be recorded prior to June 30 to count. I would like to suggest that you mail them to national headquarters by mid-June to give the office time to log the payments and processing.

Congratulations to D.C. and West Virginia (even though both do not have a state department) for making quota as of March 1, 2015. Also to the newly chartered units in Clanton, Alabama, Asheville, North Carolina, Pueblo, Colorado, and Tewksbury, Massachusetts.

Remember: as of July 1, 2015, annual Sr. members will be converted to Life. **NEW** Life members need only a \$20 down payment with an unlimited amount of time to complete their membership payments. You only need to make one payment per year but of course you can send in more often if you wish. Also members can pay their membership in full with a check to DAVA National Headquarters or by using a form of Credit Card.

Also as of July 1 Juniors will have two options. They will have a complimentary membership up to age 18 at which time they will automatically be converted to Part-Life members and will then receive billings. Or better yet, Junior Life for those under 18 allows early payments as a Life member with a minimum down payment also of \$20 which is applied towards a Full-Life payment of \$250.00. This second method will ease the cost of Life membership when they reach 18 and also you need to keep in mind that Juniors need to become Life members to apply for the DAV Auxiliary Scholarship.

Please, if you have any questions do not hesitate to call national headquarters at 877-426-2838 and follow prompt for option 5 for Auxiliary.

Thank you for all you are doing to increase our membership. Recruitment and Retention are keys to any organization and in order to fulfill our goal of helping disabled veterans and their families, we need to keep our numbers up.

Bringing the Community Closer

Recently, SFC Luis Morales DAV Auxiliary Unit 3, Puerto Rico, joined forces with their chapter to celebrate the Puerto Rican Christmas tradition of Octavitas, celebrating eight more days of Christmas, and St. Valentine's Day. Members of the community joined the chapter and unit for an afternoon of entertainment, food, and fun. The members of the DAV and Auxiliary are proud to work together on all of their events and realize that the mission of the organization can only be accomplished by doing so. Thank you to all of the members for their hard work!



Chaplain's Corner

by Judy Uetterling, National Chaplain

As I sit and watch the news, I don't know about you, but sometimes I wonder about our world. We live in challenging times so, at your next meeting and always, pray for peace and keep everyone in your prayers.

When I need a pick-me-up, I think of our DAVA family and how special our members are. I know you are all doing great work by helping Veterans. Hope to see everyone soon.

May God Bless all of you!

Mae Holmes by Linda Stake, National Mae Holmes Chairman

Thank you, units, for making this year successful. I look forward to reading the Mae Holmes reports and seeing all the good works of our wonderful organization.

Even though time has run out for Mae Holmes quota, time never runs out for membership. Please continue sponsoring new members for the good of the Unit, State, and National membership quota.

Remember, it is you, the member, who makes our organization a success! Thank you for all you do and continue to do.

Legislative by Craig Johniken, National Legislative Chairman

As a group, DAV/DAVA working together do make a difference in Washington, D.C., The Fiscal Year 2015 omnibus spending bill was enacted into law recently. Several of DAV's priorities were included in this legislation such as advance appropriations for VA mandatory spending, care for women veterans, and funding for long-term care for injured and ill veterans

DAV's Putting Veterans Funding First Act impacted the following:

- ◆ Authorized advance funding for compensation and pensions,
- ◆ Readjustment benefits
- ◆ Veterans insurance and indemnities
- ◆ Women veterans - The Long Journey Home, calling for the "VA to conduct a system-wide review of the number of gender-specific healthcare providers currently in the system," and to "collect and analyze gender-specific data and to develop programs and funding recommendations based on this data."
- ◆ The bill authorizes \$7.04 billion for "long term care for the nation's aging veterans and severely wounded combat veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan."

This is a great victory for veterans, their families and survivors and for DAV as an organization. By continuing to contact our elected officials with our message, we will continue to gain ground in protecting and expanding benefits for veterans and their families. Never give up the fight!

2015 National Convention Tentative Agenda

Join us at the Sheraton Hotel Denver for this year's National Convention! Room rates are \$128 per night plus applicable taxes, and reservations can be made by calling 303.893.3333. Remember to mention DAV for the special rate!

Thursday, August 6, 2015

- ◆ Registration
- ◆ NEC meeting (evening)

Saturday, August 8, 2015

- ◆ Joint Opening Session
- ◆ Auxiliary Opening Session

Monday, August 10, 2015

- ◆ Business Session
- ◆ Forget-Me-Not Luncheon

Friday, August 7, 2015

- ◆ Registration
- ◆ District meetings

Sunday, August 9, 2015

- ◆ Convention Committee Report Judging
- ◆ DAV Seminars

Tuesday, August 11, 2015

- ◆ Business Session
- ◆ Introduction of National Officers

www.davauxiliary.org



March Recruitment



Congratulations to:
Amie Woods, FL
Dan Murdoch, MA
Juanita Slavinsky, FL
Tana Penland, IN
Lynn Swanson, IN

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

New Auxiliary Units

Steel City #39
Pueblo, CO
Chartered 3-26-2015

Tewksbury #110
Tewksbury, MA
Chartered 3-31-2015

Congratulations and welcome!

DAV AUXILIARY

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DAV and Auxiliary, Together As One

Reminders:

Dual Membership – DAV Auxiliary members have the opportunity to hold multiple memberships with no more than one per state department. However, they may only speak, vote, or hold office in one unit/state department.

State Convention Delegates—Each Unit is entitled to one elected delegate and one elected alternate for its Charter and one elected delegate and one elected alternate for each ten life members or major fraction thereof whose membership dues have been received by National Headquarters prior to the end of each State Department’s fiscal year. A delegate to a State Convention shall not be allowed to vote until properly registered, dues paid for the convention year, and not indebted to the organization.

Eligibility for State Office—Only members in good standing in a chartered Unit for the past twelve months shall be eligible to serve as an elected or appointed State Officer. In order to be eligible for the office of State Commander, a member must have served as an elected State Officer.

Fundraising—No local unit of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary shall conduct any fund raising activity without prior **written** approval of the Chapter with which it is affiliated and, when required, **written** approval by the DAV State Department. When there is no chapter, **written** approval must be obtained from the DAV State Department. If there is no State Department, **written** approval must be obtained from the DAV National Executive Committee. No Auxiliary Unit shall conduct any fund raising projects or fund raising activity in the territory of another Chapter or Unit before asking for the required approval and giving written notice of its intentions with full information about the proposed drive or activity to all Chapters and Units within such territory, not less than two weeks before seeking approval.

National Convention Delegates—Enclosed with your month end mailing are the 2015 National Convention Delegate forms. Each unit is entitled to one elected delegate and one elected alternate for its charter, and one elected delegate and one elected alternate for each twenty-five life members or major fraction thereof. After your unit has elected delegates, be sure to return the yellow form to national headquarters.

National Chairmanship Application

Each year the newly elected DAVA National Commander appoints chairmen for each of the DAVA Programs. What is your favorite program? What information or skills can you provide to members about your favorite program?

If you are interested in a National Chairmanship, please contact National Headquarters for an application, fill out the application, and send it to: DAVA National Headquarters, 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076.