

DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News



3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076 | February 2016

Commander Linda Stake

Will be placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, located in the Arlington National Cemetery.

**Saturday,
February 20th
at 9:15 a.m.**

We invite you to check out the new inventory in the DAV store!

davstore.org

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From the Desk of National Commander Linda Stake...

I want to thank the DAV Auxiliary, Department of Florida, for a wonderful mid-winter conference. This conference was well-organized by State Adjutant Diane Franz, Commander Shirley Kirkland, line officers and chairmen. The programs were great and I believe everyone learned a lot of new things to take back to units. Thank you, Florida, for all you do.

After arriving back home, I spent a couple of frustrating weeks on the phone, net, and e-mail due to the closing of the Mark Twain Riverboat. The Commanders' Testimonial Dinners information was in the printing process in the "DAV Magazine" when I learned of the Mark Twain Riverboat closing; and, my invitations were already printed! The good news is an alternative has been found - and yes, we will have bar-b-que and entertainment! Whew!

Commanders and Adjutants, I will be sending invitations to your address. Will you please notify members of the change in plans for April 15? Thank you to all members who commented on Facebook when I posted the closing of the Mark Twain. You have been so encouraging and are just great!

In February I will attend Veterans Appreciation Day at the North Little Rock VA Hospital and Mid-winter Conference in Washington, D.C. I hope to see many members as we go before Congress to insure they "Keep the Promise" to our veterans and their families.

Stay warm, safe travels, and God bless you!

Hospital By Terry Grabowski, National Hospital Chairman

Now that the holidays are over, we need to keep up the great work. For many, after all the parties and visitors have ended is a really hard time for them. There are some fun holidays right around the corner.

How about throwing a Valentine's party? My unit did a formal prom at a nursing home. We decorated T-shirts to look like gowns and tuxedos. Each guest had either a top hat or a crown to make them feel special. We gave each woman a long stem rose. Food was great and we played Bingo to end the event. They were all excited with their outfits more than the food. This can be done anytime of the year, not just Valentine's Day. Have your juniors make Valentine's Day cards and distribute them.

St. Patty's Day is another great event. Give each guest a green t-shirt and go to the dollar store and get beads, head bands, or glasses. Your unit members could dress up as leprechauns. Have green punch and cookies. Get a cauldron and fill with gold coins and rainbows.

First thing to do is check with the facility to see if a date is available and if there are restrictions to follow. It would really be a shame to plan something amazing and not have a date to go or an idea that has a restriction.

If not up to a party, see if you can decorate the residents' doors or the day room. If you have any ideas you would like to share, please contact me.

Americanism By Diane Franz, Americanism Chairman

Number 7 on the Americanism report asks the question, “Were Unit members encouraged to vote and others?” With primary elections coming up this spring, we should be encouraging our members and neighbors to take the time to go to the polls. Many states have early voting prior to elections. You can ask a homebound friend/neighbor if they need a ride to their poll location or help them get an absentee ballot. Primary elections are just as important as the general elections in November. Be an informed voter—research the candidates’ views on veteran and military concerns. If they are an incumbent, how was their voting record on our issues? Our veterans paid the price for our right to freely vote for the candidate of our choice. This is a privilege and our duty as an American.

1800: 1 VOTE made Thomas Jefferson president instead of Aaron Burr
 1876: 1 VOTE made Rutherford B. Hayes a United States President
 1960: 1 VOTE changed in each precinct would have defeated John Kennedy
 1992: 1 VOTE selected a member of the Town Council of Trinity, Alabama

1 VOTE, your vote, can make the difference.

In the United States, 1 VOTE DOES MATTER. Be the ONE.



God bless and watch over our military and veterans and God bless America!

Community Service

By Lynn Prosser, National 4th Junior Vice Commander

As I sit in front of my computer pondering on my newsletter for you, my “HEART STRINGS” tell me to change paths!!! Sometimes we just have to deal with reality....In recent months, many of our members, their families and communities were devastated by flooding waters, tornados, fires, and other personal tragedies and life events.

We are truly blessed!!! We live in America!!! We are a strong, powerful nation and we CARE about the welfare of our family, friends, neighbors and YES....we care about people we have never met!!!

I am asking unit members to take this month to “visit” their own “front porch” !!! Sometimes pride or embarrassment makes it awkward for a member to ask for help. Most of you have heard the saying, “it doesn’t take a rocket scientist to figure this one out,” so, that being said, be kind, be thoughtful and be considerate and get busy!!! Find a way for your unit to softly reach out to them with love, understanding, and true compassion.

Does your unit have charitable funds that have been sitting too long??? If not, plan a fundraiser designated to assisting with needy members’ utilities, rent, food gift

cards, clothes, and housewares. How many widows/ widowers of veterans do you have on your membership list that could use your help? What about young struggling veterans and their children??? Community Service should start right in your own unit and chapter.

Volunteer to assist a caregiver. Sometimes they can’t or won’t leave the spouse/family member but would appreciate help with errands, grocery shopping, cooked meals or just a short “I care about you” visit. Many young veterans and their families experience stress because of financial and social hardships. Again, assistance with utilities, rent, food, clothes and school supplies could be a wonderful way to give them encouragement and a positive sense of hope for their future. Many of our members live alone and would appreciate an invitation to dinner, a shopping trip or a social gathering. Older members may need some help with small home repairs or clean-up.

It is imperative that chapter and unit members build a strong bridge of communication and positive work skills with each other to be successful. Forming a solid partnership will result in a great foundation to fulfill our DAV/ DAVA Mission!!!

Again, from my home to yours, may God bless you and your family, our veterans, our troops and may we always stay “America Strong.”

Education Scholarship Program

By LeeAnn Karg, PNC and National Education Scholarship Fund Chairman

It is time to be getting those Scholarship applications filled out and sent in if you have not already done so. The deadline is March 11, 2016. Please make sure that you use the current application form. Education is so vitally important to all of us and our futures. You never stop learning. The scholarship is available to any fully paid life member of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. They are available for full-time or part-time students as well as students with unique requests. The amount of each scholarship is determined by the National Education Scholarship Fund Committee.



Rules are:

Amount of scholarship is a maximum of \$1500.00 each;

Maximum of 5 per applicant; One per year;

Must be at the very least a senior in high school;

Full-time students must have a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester and must maintain a 2.5 GPA to receive the full \$1500.00;

Part-time students must have a minimum of 6 credit hours per semester and maintain a 2.5 GPA to receive \$750.00;

Unique Request students can have less than 6 credit hours per semester and will be eligible for \$750.00

Previous recipients of DAVA National Education Loans are also eligible for the scholarship;

No money is sent to schools outside of the US;

Let's get busy and get those applications completed and mailed in.

VAVS Report

By Nancy Mooney, National VAVS Representative

February is the month for sweethearts, flowers, chocolates, love, and in the VAVS program, Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Day.

The reason to show that you care for our veterans cannot be replaced by anything other than visiting your local VA Medical Center. Many of the larger Medical Centers are planning concerts of musical entertainment, but if your local VA Center is not a part of any of these large events let's explore what might be possible at your facility.

It is often enough to just make some small gesture of caring: bring a card, a small box of candy or flowers, or just a chat at the side of a veteran's bed who may appreciate the touch of a hand. A gentle pat on the back or a smile will go a long way to show that we in the DAVA care.

Enlist your DAVA Juniors to help by making cards that can be presented to each veteran. Reach out to other youth groups in the community such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, YMCA, YWCA, and 4-H Clubs to get them to make cards or some small table favor for the veterans' food trays. Contact a local school and ask if they have any form of musical groups that could entertain at your local VA medical facility.

We are social beings by nature. All people, especially our veterans who spend their days in our VA Medical Centers, need to feel relevant and not forgotten.

May you be blessed by your service in the DAVA VAVS program. Thank you for showing we remember those veterans who served our country. Thank you to all of you who volunteer, and to the many others who contribute to the VAVS programs with donations for our veterans in our VA Medical Centers throughout this great country.

Linda Stake

National Commander

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Pulling

Together



Mae Holmes

By Frances J. Costa, National Sr. Vice Commander

A greeting to all of you, my wish for all of our membership is that they have a happy and healthy 2016 and with that are able to forward the cause of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary in all aspects of our purpose through our many programs. We have demonstrated through our history the ability to bring people together for one common cause.

We need to move our organization forward with dignity as we strive to serve the needs of our disabled veterans and their families, and to respect the dignity of those we serve. As we reach out to other veterans and families with outstretched hands we need to remember that we are not giving them a hand out but a hand up. Also as we move forward let us keep harmony within our units, departments and our national organization. We must remember also that when serving others, it isn't just an act of kindness that we perform; it is also a means to build understanding. Serving others is not just a duty; it is a responsibility for all of us.

A quote that I found by Dr. Jitsuhiro Yamada "Be kind. Be open. Be curious. Be strong. Be generous. Be sincere. Be loyal. Be honest." Let this be our 2016 guide in moving the DAV Auxiliary forward.

Your Unit Adjutant should be receiving soon, the end of year report forms from your State Adjutant. If your unit has not been participating, please consider filling out these forms and sending them to your Department Adjutant so that they can be passed on to our national chairmen and executive committee members to assist them in compiling a more accurate end of year report. This is how we get an overall picture of the strength and weaknesses within our organization. I am a phone call away if you should have any questions regarding this process.

History Book

By Joyce E. Humes, History Book Chairman

I am calling upon all of you to help me with Commander Linda Stake's History Book. Remember—the book depends upon the pictures I RECEIVE. The more... the better.

I would like to thank all of those who allowed me to take their pictures at the National Fall Conference. It is appreciated. Hopefully ya'll don't mind me taking more elsewhere.

I do still need the rest of the National officers, Chairpersons, State Commanders, and NEC's. Since I cannot be many places, if the commander is in your area for any event, please take pictures of her and send them to me.

Joyce E. Humes
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Congratulations to the state departments of Iowa and Pennsylvania for making quota!

Congratulations to Stephenville Unit 234 in Texas on their charter!