

# DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News



3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076 | February 2018



## Quota Achieved!

Congratulations to the following State Departments for making 2017-2018 Quota!

Nevada  
Vermont  
West Virginia

### Inside this issue:

Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit	1
Important Notice	1
Wreath Laying	1
VAVS	2
Junior Registration	2
Community Service	3
Unit Elections	3
Financial Reports	3
Due Dates	4
Reminders	4
DAVA Testimonial Dinner	4

## Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit by Ellen Timmerman, Chairman

I hope everyone had a great holiday with family and friends and are already busy doing things in their units. The report forms have been mailed to the State Adjutants and should be sent to all Unit Adjutants very soon. The report forms are also online at the DAV Auxiliary site at <http://www.davauxiliary.org/membership>.

The Mae Holmes National Outstanding Unit Report is the last report you should complete because everything you need will be on the other reports you have completed. Doing your reports as a unit can be a lot of fun; someone in the group might remember something that was done that was not listed and should be. This is also a great opportunity to hear new ideas for next year's projects and to visit with each other.

State Adjutants—please remember to have the reports in the mail to the National Committee Chairperson on time so they can complete their report.

If your state department does not participate in report form completion your unit should document your projects and activities on the Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit report and send to national headquarters so that the information can be included in the organization's report of accomplishments.

**God bless each of you for all that you do to help Veterans and their families.**

## Important Notice

A Kentucky-based company has contacted DAV Auxiliary units and state departments reminding them to complete the 990-N e-Postcard, and providing a link to do so. This company is fee-based and focuses on non-profit groups who are required to file the annual e-Postcard.

Please be advised this company has **not** been contracted by DAV Auxiliary national headquarters, and is **not** working on our behalf to assist units and state departments with their annual filing. Units and state departments should continue to use [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) to complete this free annual filing.

The company in question does not provide an opportunity for phone calls, and requests that all questions go directly through the IRS; however, they are not working on behalf of the IRS. Units and state departments receiving these emails should click "unsubscribe" at the bottom of the email to avoid future contact.

As always, we encourage any unit or state department experiencing difficulty in completing the IRS requirement to contact national headquarters for assistance.

Please remain diligent to avoid unnecessary expenses for the unit or state department. We thank those who have contacted us questioning these emails. If in doubt, contact us at 877-426-2838, option 5.

## National Commander Craig Johniken to Lay Wreath at Tomb of the Unknowns

National Commander Craig Johniken will represent the DAV Auxiliary in a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery on Saturday, February 24, 2018, at 9:15 a.m. Joining him will be DAV National Commander Delphine Metcalf-Foster. If you are planning to attend the DAV Legislative Mid-Winter Conference or will be in the area on that date, you are welcome to attend.

## VAVS by Melissa Pierce, National VAVS Chairman

“Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation’s compassion, unselfish caring, patience and just plain love for one another.” ~Erma Bombeck

The VAVS program has been around since April 1946. In those 72 years, thousands of volunteers have donated over 760 million hours helping make each day a little brighter for veterans. In 2016, VAVS volunteers provided more than 10.7 million hours of voluntary services to veterans. The Auxiliary had 456 volunteers who donated over 45,000 hours. When you combine that with DAV, our organizations had over 5,700 volunteers who donated over 1.6 million hours – that’s about 1/6 of the total hours donated in 2016! Just think what we could accomplish, and the joy we could bring to veterans, if we all participated in VAVS!

Why should you volunteer? What’s in it for you? Many times volunteering is seen as a selfless act; people assuming that you’re sacrificing time without any return benefit. How wrong they are! Those of you who volunteer regularly know that although the primary goal is to help others, the way you feel afterward is exhilarating! That isn’t enough for you? Consider this—volunteers develop new skills, strengthen their compassion for others, improve communication skills, improve physical and mental health, experience greater happiness, and have more fun. Are you ready now?

What do you need to be a great volunteer? That’s easy – a positive attitude, compassionate heart, open-mind, motivation, and a willingness to help in any way you can. VA’s and CBOC’s across the country have a variety of volunteer opportunities for anyone, from office/ administration tasks, driving a DAV van, pushing a book or beverage cart, giving directions, and much more! Contact your local Voluntary Service office to see how you can help.

Encourage Juniors to get involved in volunteering. Not only does it fulfill graduation requirements at some schools and look good on college resumes, it teaches them to give back. Start early and let them develop these caring and giving habits that will follow them into adulthood.

In 2006, the VA published a book that shared the stories of a few of their volunteers - “A Million Reasons – Stories from the Hearts of VA Volunteers.” I took the time to read through these stories of why, where, when, and how long. Aside from being inspiring, these stories, or in my opinion, testimonials, demonstrate the loving and giving hearts of volunteers and the great benefits the volunteer receives when they volunteer with the VA. If you have time, please check it out and share with your members as a way to encourage volunteerism—<https://www.volunteer.va.gov/docs/MillionReasons.pdf>.

No matter how much time you have or what your interests may be, there is a volunteer activity for you. The DAV and DAV Auxiliary websites have links that will help find your nearest VA. I’d like for all of us to be “lowans” at heart - “Inspire Others With Action.” What will you do?



### **2018 National Convention Junior Pre-Registration**

*The following junior will be in attendance at the 2018 National Convention in Reno, NV.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

State and Unit #: \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt size: \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Child (circle one)

*This form must be returned to DAVA National Headquarters no later than **May 15, 2018**.  
3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076 -Fax:859.442.2095 -email: [dava@dav.org](mailto:dava@dav.org)*

Don’t forget to return the pre-registration form for any junior attending national convention. This will guarantee that the junior receives a t-shirt once they arrive at the convention hotel. Additional t-shirts will **not** be available!

## Community Service by Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, National Community Service Chairman

Commander Johniken's theme for this year is, "You've Got a Friend." I can't think of a better or more succinct explanation of Community Service. Volunteers, like friends, see a need or problem and reach out to help solve it. According to the Corporation for National Community Service, **25.3 percent** of Americans volunteer, which is 62.8 million volunteers. They average 32.1 volunteer hours per person, per year, which comes to 7.9 billion hours of service or the equivalent of \$184 billion. I can imagine that many of these volunteers are DAV Auxiliary members.



Our Community Service report enables Auxiliary members to get credit for their volunteer hours which are not tied to the Veteran community. There are five categories of service: a) **Family Service:** Direct aid to families, visits, clothing, food, transportation, etc; b) **Professional & Trade Services:** Medical, dental services or payments, plumber, electrician, etc; c) **General Services to Community:** Organized activities, Meals on Wheels, senior citizens, youth groups, fund drives, blood bank, church work, neighborhood watch, etc; d) **Recreation & Entertainment:** Parties, gifts, etc; and e) **Special Projects and Programs:** Museums, historical projects, etc., tutoring of illiterates, Local Veterans Assistance Program, Handicapped Parking Awareness, etc.

Sharing our outside interests enables Auxiliary members to learn more about one another. We can also use these connections to inform members of those outside of our community about the services that the DAV Auxiliary provides to disabled veterans and their families. It is possible that volunteers we meet while working for another cause may either be eligible for Auxiliary membership or perhaps want to assist in our efforts. I am excited to read your reports and see all of the different lives our members impact.

### Unit Elections

It's that time of year when most units hold their annual elections. Regardless of when elections are held for your unit, here are a few important reminders:

- Notify all members of officer nomination/election no less than ten days in advance. Be sure this notification includes date, time, and meeting location. This communication can be done by phone call, e-mail, newsletter, postcard, etc., and at any time in the unit's fiscal year, as long as it is at least ten days prior.
- Members entitled to vote must be in good standing which means their life membership is in "Active" Status, and they are not indebted to the organization.
- Generate a membership list to determine the paid status of those who are running for an office and those who will be casting votes. *Every member should indicate an "Active" status.*
- The election must be held for each individual office; not an entire slate.
- Prior to the installation of the unit treasurer, an audit committee shall examine and verify the financial records of the unit. This review does not require the completion and submission of the annual financial report, which is for the time period of July 1 through June 30. An complete audit must be performed at that time.

### Newly Revised Financial Report

The newly revised annual financial report and instructions are now available online at [www.davauxiliary.org](http://www.davauxiliary.org). Units and state departments utilizing the electronic version will need to print **four** copies of the report to satisfy mailing requirements. Also, each report must include a copy of the schedules/ attachments for the required lines as outlined on the report.

All units and state departments will receive the financial report and instructions by postal mail in April. Please remember the due date for this report is September 30, 2018.

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

## DAV AUXILIARY

**Craig Johniken,**  
National Commander

3725 Alexandra Pike  
Cold Spring, KY 41076

Phone: 877.426.2838  
Fax: 859.442.2095  
E-mail: [dava@dav.org](mailto:dava@dav.org)  
[www.davauxiliary.org](http://www.davauxiliary.org)

**Patricia Kemper,**  
National Adjutant



**“You’ve Got a Friend”**

Follow us on Social Media  
for news and information  
on the DAV Auxiliary.



## Sponsors Welcome!

Sponsorships are available for the 2018 National Fall Conference in Lexington, Kentucky. This is an opportunity for a business or organization to say thank you to disabled veterans and their families, and to provide a memorable Fall Conference experience for our deserving members.

Currently, these sponsorships are available:

- ⇒ Signature Sponsor (\$5,000)
- ⇒ Special Event Sponsor (\$2,500)
- ⇒ Sponsor Exhibitor (\$1,000)
- ⇒ In-Kind Sponsorships

Any business or organization interested in a [sponsorship opportunity](#) should contact Auxiliary national headquarters.

## Deadlines:

- Education Scholarship Applications must be postmarked no later than March 20, 2018.
- Outstanding Member of the Year Award Applications must be postmarked no later than March 30, 2018.

Remember—Applications change year-to-year, so review them and submit all required attachments to avoid disqualifications. The most recent version of each report must be used.

## Save the Date:

2018 National Fall Conference  
September 27—29, 2018  
Lexington Embassy Suites  
1801 Newtown Pike  
Lexington, KY 40511  
Telephone: 859.455.5000

\$124 Single/Double  
\$134 Triple/Quad

All rates will include complimentary parking, Wi-Fi, breakfast, and evening manager reception.

## Reminders:

- **Communication**—While e-mail is extremely cost-effective and a prompt method of communication, keep in mind that it is not used by all members. Those members who do not have e-mail are as deserving of all unit/state communications as those with e-mail and should not be excluded. Communication is the key to success!
- **Meetings**—Units must hold a minimum of four regular business meetings per year. Additional meetings are encouraged. The minimum quorum is four senior members, and one member present must be the Unit Commander or a Unit Vice Commander.

## National Commander Testimonial Dinner

National Commander Craig Johniken will be honored at a testimonial dinner on Saturday, April 14, 2018, at El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel in San Antonio, Texas.

Cocktail hour will begin at 6:00 pm with dinner to follow at 7:00 pm. Dinner tickets are \$50 and reservations are required. Purchase tickets by April 1, 2018. Checks should be sent to Darlene Spence, DAVA Commander’s Testimonial, 7919 Yellow Bark Blvd., San Antonio, TX 78154.

Room reservations can be made directly with the El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel, 110 Lexington Ave., San Antonio, TX 78205 (210.223.9461) and refer to the room block DAV Auxiliary Testimonial. Room rate is \$125 per night plus tax, and reservation cut-off is March 12.

A golf outing at Willow Springs Golf Course is scheduled for Friday, April 13. The cost is \$48 for 18 holes and a cart.

The National Commander has requested casual attire for all events.