

DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News



3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076 | Q2 2016

Congratulations to the state departments that made quota for 2015 - 2016!

**Alabama
Florida
Idaho
Iowa
Louisiana
Nebraska
Nevada
North Carolina
Ohio
Pennsylvania
South Dakota
Vermont
Wyoming**

From the Desk of National Commander Linda Stake...

DAV & DAV Auxiliary – Partners Pulling Together. That’s more than a theme for my year as National Commander; those are the words that I have lived by since attending my first Auxiliary meeting more than 20 years ago. DAV and DAV Auxiliary are my family – my partners in service.

Near and dear to my heart are the veterans who proudly served our country and are now living with the scars of their service. We know that even the most invisible of scars come with a heavily paid sacrifice. Returning home from active duty brings a “new normal” to the household and an adjustment for the family unit.

Oftentimes, standing with those veterans are spouses and family members serving as caregivers, children included. We are here for all veteran families and making a difference in their lives.

In my conversations with caregivers through the years, I realize they are special people whose love and devotion to their veteran shines through. They are the best kind of heroes. I ask you to stay vigilant with reminding your legislators of the importance of supporting all caregivers, including the pre 9/11 caregivers. That’s what we do. Together with DAV we are working together to secure those well-deserved benefits.

As my term as National Commander comes to a close, I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to each and every DAV and DAV Auxiliary member. Your kindness, compassion, and commitment to the veteran community are unmatched and it makes me so very proud.

Thank you for all you do! We truly are **DAV & DAV Auxiliary – Partners Pulling Together.**

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Americanism By Diane Franz, National 3rd Junior Vice Commander

What is Americanism? Americanism is one’s loyalty to the United States of America and being proud of the country’s cultural values and institutions; to a person who is a serious Americanism participant, they believe that America is the best, and would stand up to those who oppose.

Some ideas to help promote Americanism:

- Teaching the rules of Flag etiquette
- Encouraging members to fly the flag
- Donating patriotic books to libraries and schools
- Sponsoring patriotic essay contests for schools
- Presenting flags to schools and community groups
- Taking your children/grandchildren with you when you vote. (Some places may have places with kid-related voting.)
- Conduct a flag disposal ceremony

Upcoming dates to fly our Flag: Labor Day—1st Monday in September, and Constitution Day—September 17.

Thank you for your support this past year and all the great programs you have done to promote this great country of ours. Let’s keep Old Glory flying high! God bless America, God bless our Veterans and Military, and God bless YOU!

DAVSTORE.ORG

Hospital **By Terry Grabowski, National Hospital Chairman**

Now that the weather is getting warmer, it is time to start planning some great events for the Veterans confined to hospitals or nursing homes. After the long hard winter, they need some major cheering up. Just visiting with them means so much, but maybe plan some excitement. Twist some holidays around. Maybe have a Christmas party in July. Try an Easter egg hunt in August. Why not have a "Take me out to the ballgame" day. Use your local teams and center the festivities on the team. Serve hot dogs and don't forget the sauerkraut. You have to include peanuts and Cracker Jacks.

Check with Voluntary Services to see if this is ok. Purchase baseball caps or T-shirts with a baseball theme for our Veterans. Sing baseball songs.

If possible see if they can hook up a TV so they could watch a baseball game. Then just watch their faces light up.

Dollar stores work great for decorations and small gifts. There are so many treasures in these stores and they might just give you an idea for a party.

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.

Reports are coming in and I am so proud of the amazing work each and every one of you is doing. Keep up the terrific work.

Junior Activities **By Darlene Spence, National Junior Activities Chairman**

What an impressive year! I have read with excitement and joy, every report; and looked at all the pictures of the different activities showing how you helped our Disabled American Veterans and your communities. I am so proud of you for your dedication and all the hard work during the past year. "WELL DONE!"

I hope you had a safe and fun filled July 4th weekend while celebrating our Independence, and remembering those who make sure we can remain an independent nation.

I look forward to meeting you at our National Convention in Atlanta. Units, if you have Juniors that will be attending the convention, please help us adequately prepare for them. Send a list of all juniors attending, and remember to include if they will be serving as a junior page, to National Headquarters or email the list to dava@dav.org. Additionally, if you have a Junior Member that has done an outstanding job, give him/her recognition and submit the DAVA Junior Award Questionnaire.

We must remember what it's all about! "OUR JUNIORS - OUR FUTURE"

Mae Holmes **By Frances J. Costa, National Sr. Vice Commander**

I am pleased to have received so many unit reports at this time. They are coming in slowly but by the time this article is printed, I am sure to have received many more and be well on my way to completing my chairmanship end of year report. I know there are many units out there who are very conscientious about our Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary programs and we like to know what you are doing, not only for our end of year reports, but so that we can share the information with other units. Some fresh ideas are always helpful

We have so many outstanding units and members who give of themselves selflessly to our veterans and their families as well as the communities they live in. Please acknowledge their worth by submitting your reports annually. Remember: when we plant a seed – we reap a harvest. Thank you for all that you continue to do for the DAVA and our country's veterans and their families.

"Traditions are important, even essential, for strong groups," says William Berkowitz, professor emeritus of psychology at the university of Massachusetts at Lowell. "Since the beginning of recorded history, traditions have been something that binds the members of a group together."

Why should someone take the time out of a busy day to go to a DAVA meeting?

"Because they get some benefits from doing so and one of those benefits is feeling that they belong, that they are connected to something larger than themselves."

Remember, it is imperative that we increase members, and hopefully active members. Membership is key to our viability and we need all of our members to participate in the membership program. We need to strengthen our units by being proactive and committed to our goals and cause.

Community Service By Lynn Helms Prosser, National 4th Jr. Vice Commander

As we come to a close of our fiscal year, we are busy with state conventions, electing new officers, making new budgets, planning fund raisers and looking forward to our National Convention and National DAVA Fall Conference. Time seems to be moving too fast; there are not enough hours in the day or days in the week. DAV Auxiliary members certainly should not be bored or idle. Community service is our "Circle of Life."

Volunteering to help our veterans and their families in our communities is so personally rewarding. Now is a great time for members to visit our elderly veterans and surprise them with fresh fruits and vegetables. Many of our veterans may not have air-conditioning so check and make sure they have some type of fan. Invite your chapter members to co-sponsor this project and visit with you. Summer is a great time to volunteer at nursing homes, church camps, and senior citizen centers. Donate craft materials, games, books, and packaged treats to homeless shelters along with personal care items such as shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and brushes, new socks, tee shirts, and underwear. Remember to add those special items for females and children.

It's never too early to start those projects for the holidays. Contact social directors at your local homeless shelters, children's homes, and nursing homes. Share ideas and make a list of items your unit may need to start collecting. Plan a date and get on their calendar for your event. Volunteer to help a young needy veteran with children. Purchase gift certificates for school clothes and supplies. Let them know you care with a gift card from a local grocery store or assistance with a utility payment.

Now is a perfect time for unit members to plan various fund raisers to support their projects. Find that perfect driveway and set a date and time for a "Treasure Hunt"!!! Get members to donate those "priceless items" hidden away in cabinets, closets, and attics. Remember, someone's trash is another's treasure. Watch for community craft fairs and put those talented members to work making items to sell. Take this opportunity to recruit new members and invite them to your meetings.

For those who can, become a blood donor. Give the gift of life. For those who can't, donate your time and service. Give the gift of hope. "A Hero Lies in You"!!!

From my home to yours, may God bless our veterans, our troops, especially those serving in harm's way, and may He keep us "America Strong."



2016 National Convention

July 31—August 3, 2016
Hyatt Regency Atlanta on Peachtree Street
265 Peachtree St. NE
Atlanta, GA 30303

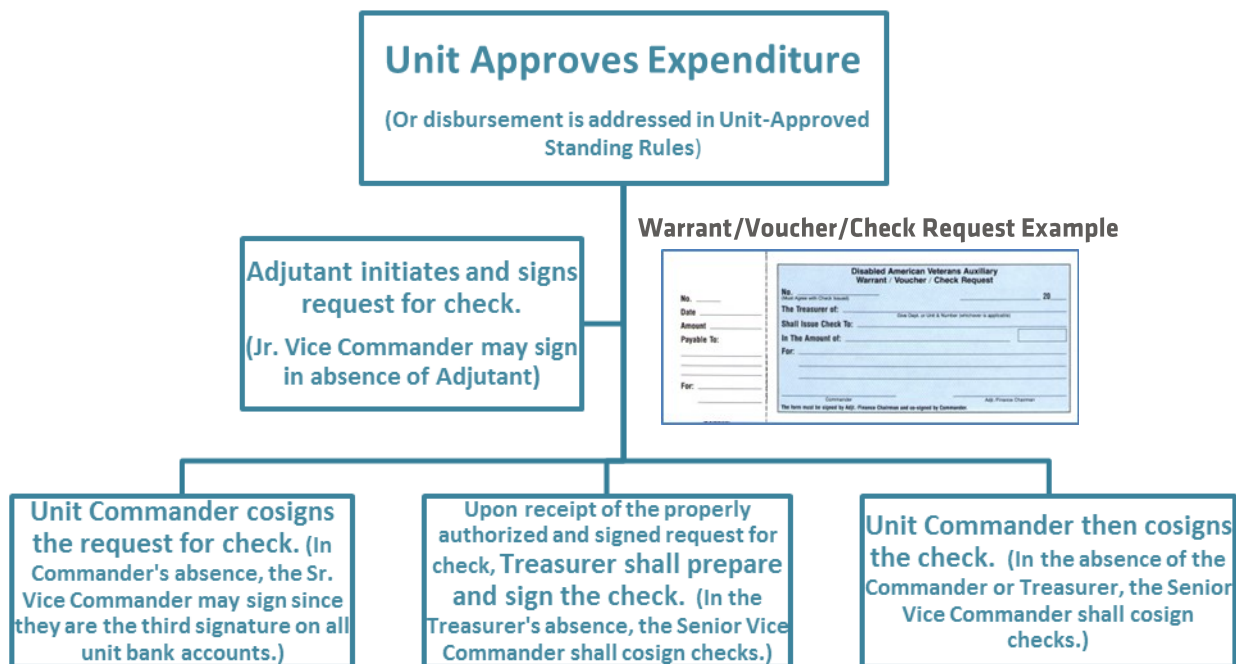
Tentative Auxiliary Agenda Subject to Change

07/29 - Registration	08/01 - DAV Seminars
07/29 - NEC Meeting	08/01 - Fun Night
07/30 - National District Meetings	08/02 - Auxiliary Business Session
07/31 - Memorial Service	08/02 - Forget-Me-Not Luncheon
07/31 - Joint Opening Session	08/03 - Auxiliary Final Business Session
07/31 - Auxiliary First Business Session	08/03 - NEC Meeting
07/31 - National Commander's Reception	08/03 - Introduction of National Officers & Dinner
08/01 - Convention Committee Meetings	

Unit Warrants/Vouchers/Check Requests

The national bylaws provide for the proper procedure when issuing checks from unit accounts.

“Unit funds may only be expended upon approval of unit members at a regular business meeting unless otherwise specified in Unit Standing Rules.”



CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS ARE NOT TO BE USED



2016 National Fall Conference

September 29 - October 1, 2016
Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza
35 W. 5th St.
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Wednesday, September 28 -
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm - Registration

Thursday, September 29 -
9:00 am - 6:00 pm - Registration
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Health & Wellness Fair
4:00 pm - NEC Meeting
7:30 pm - Business Session

Friday, September 30 -
8:30 am - 12:00 pm - Registration
9:00 am - 11:30 am - Business Session
1:00 pm - 3:30 pm - Business Session
6:00 pm - 6:30 pm - Cocktail Reception
6:30 pm - Banquet

Saturday, October 1 -
9:00 am - 12:00 pm - Business Session
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Reception for Registered Attendees

*Tentative Agenda
Subject to Change*



Chaplain's Corner By Aura-Lee Nicodemus, National Chaplain

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, in as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Matthew 25:40 King James Version

The DAVA from around the Nation have been meeting and conducting our annual business and selecting the leaders for the upcoming year. This is a pivotal time to shape the future, but it is also a time where we look at our budgets and have the opportunity to shape our programs for the upcoming year. At the National level each unit and State has the opportunity to support our programs that allow us to serve others. The Education Scholarship Fund and the Service Support Fund allow our members to demonstrate our compassion to each other and truly make a difference. Both of these programs rely on US - we support it with our donations, our DAVA family members have it to rely on when needed, and most of all DAVA National even cares for it and assures it is handled most effectively. If each of us just donates a little more than we originally planned, it would allow us to Serve and make an even bigger difference.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our members who have contributed to the education fund and would like to share the story of one young man - who has used that money to make a difference in his educational path and the lives of others. Mark was a foster child who had a rough start, but just before his fourth birthday he found his way into the DAVA family (although boys couldn't join yet). He struggled through his youth and many DAV and DAVA members reached out to him over the years. As a pre-teen he was adopted by the family who had fostered him, he struggled as a teenager to find his path and quit high school with only one week to go. His life spiraled down a dark path, but members of the DAV and DAVA continued to reach out to him and his life turned around.

He completed high school, joined the DAVA and soon requested money from the Education Scholarship Fund to fill the gaps and help him to go to college. He was on the Dean's list as he earned his Associate's and Bachelor's degrees in Human Services and at that time spent much of his early career helping the homeless and those with substance abuse - at times working with the youth - many of whom were children coming from families with Veterans, and reaching out to those with mental health and substance abuse issues. Three years ago he was one of only 81 students chosen at his college for the Masters in Social Work program, and in May 2016 he graduated. He is currently serving in a new substance abuse and recovery center for men. With your help, he is making a difference in the lives of others. Thank you!! (The Chaplain who is also a very proud mom.)

National VAVS By Nancy Mooney, National VAVS Representative

Summer is a happy and relaxing time for us all because school is out. In most areas of the country, we look forward to enjoying more warmth of the sun and a less structured routine for our children. So what does that mean for the VAVS Program? A very good time to recruit school-aged children who have lots of time on their hands. Our juniors and their friends have free time that could be valuable to serving in our VA Medical Centers.

And as an added bonus, remember that students between the ages of 14 and 18 are eligible to apply for the Parke Scholarship with a minimum of 100 volunteer hours of service in a VA facility. Many students who show interest in the medical field have a great opportunity to get exposure and insight into their particular field before taking courses. This sometimes helps them narrow the choice of an educational course for college.

Do not forget to look at those teachers and coaches that have summers off now that school is not in session in most parts of the country. This would be the perfect opportunity for them to come on board as an occasional volunteer. Many of our most recent deployed veterans who have returned home relate more closely with the younger generation so our teaching staff volunteers are often great matches for these veterans.

This is the time of year that many off-site events happen such as kayaking, fishing, bike riding and running events just to mention a few. So if any of these sporting events appeal to you, please volunteer at your local VA facility.

Enjoy your summer and be sure to include our veterans at your local VA Medical Center or other VA facilities. Thank you for your continued service to our VAVS Programs.

Linda Stake

National Commander

Patricia Kemper

National Adjutant

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DAV AUXILIARY 2016

DAV Auxiliary National Fall Conference 2016

Hilton Cincinnati, OH

Netherland Plaza

September 29th—

October 1st

Phone: (513)421-9100

\$129 Single/Double

\$154 Triple

\$179 Quad

**If you know of a DAV
Auxiliary junior
member interested in
serving as a page for
National Convention,
please send their
name to National
Headquarters!**

Legislative

By Ellen Timmerman, National Legislative Chairman

Following are some of the legislation currently being considered. You can go to the DAV web site to find a list of all the bills the DAV supports.

H.R. 4640, the Veteran Suicide Prevention Act. If enacted, this bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to complete a review and report of the deaths by suicide of all veterans under VA care during the five-year period preceding enactment.

This review would include the following:

- the total number of veterans who died by suicide;
- a summary that includes age, gender, and race;
- medications that were prescribed to, and found in the systems of, veterans at the time of death, and a summary of diagnoses that led to the prescribing of such medications;
- the number of instances in which each veteran was concurrently on multiple medications prescribed by VA;
- the percentage of veterans who were not taking any medication prescribed by VA;
- the percentage of veterans with combat experience or trauma;
- a listing of VA facilities with markedly high prescription and patient suicide rates;
- a description of VA prescribing policies; and
- recommendations to improve the safety and well-being of veterans under VA care.

The bill would require VA to report to Congress the extent to which veterans who died by suicide were being prescribed medications carrying "black box" warnings. It would also mandate VA to report prescribing policies related to black box medications.

S.901 The Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs introduced legislation that is important to Vietnam Veterans which will extend the Caregivers Benefits to Vietnam Veterans and under Subtitle I Research on Toxic Exposure.

This past month the House of Representatives passed four veteran-related bills with DAV's support based on their national resolutions. Now "we are waiting" to see what the Senate will do.

H.R. 2460, would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to pay costs associated with veterans receiving adult day health care services in state veterans homes (Resolution 101);

H.R. 3989, the Support Our Military Caregivers Act, would establish a special appellate-like program to enable a family caregiver of a severely disabled veteran to challenge VA's decision to reduce or deny caregiver supports and services (Resolution 106);

H.R. 5229, the Improving Transition Programs for All Veterans Act, would authorize a new study to evaluate the effectiveness of transition services for new veterans, with a special focus on women veterans (Resolutions 129 and 138); and **H.R. 3956**, the VA Health Center Management Stability and Improvement Act, would require VA to develop a plan to ensure each VA medical center is assigned a permanent chief executive (Resolution 126).

You can go to: <http://www.veterans.senate.gov/newsroom/majority-news> to find out what legislation the Senate is considering and sending to the house.

Remember it is an election year, so be sure to check and find out how your legislators voted. Sometimes we're told what they think we want to hear instead of what is actually happening. Use your voice and your vote and let them know what you want done.

