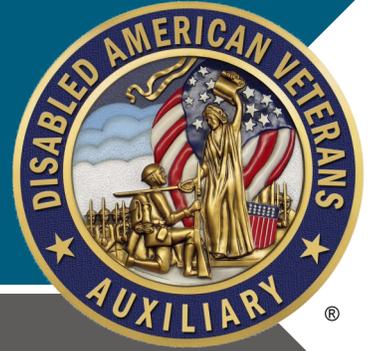


DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News



3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076 | Q3 2016

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Louisiana for
making quota!**

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Constitution and
Bylaw Books are
now available!
www.davstore.org**

Frances J. Costa Elected National Commander

Congratulations to the 2016-17 DAV Auxiliary National Commander, Frances J. Costa.

Mrs. Costa was elected DAV Auxiliary National Commander at the 94th National Convention held in Atlanta, GA, in August 2016. She is eligible for DAV Auxiliary membership through many family members: Her husband, a two-time Purple Heart recipient who served as an Army tunnel rat in Vietnam, is a DAV Life Member and Past Department Commander for the state of Massachusetts. Her father is a DAV Life Member and a veteran of World War II. Both of Commander Costa's sons are veterans; the oldest of the Persian Gulf War and the youngest, also a Life Member of DAV, is an OEF/OIF veteran.

On the local level, Fran has been a very active charter Life member of Westcott Houghton Unit #56 in North Attleborough, Ma., since 1984 when the unit was chartered having held all elected and appointed positions. She is presently serving as Unit Treasurer.



She has held a number of elected and appointed positions in the Auxiliary State Department of Massachusetts serving as 1998-99 State Commander, Vice Commander positions, Treasurer, Adjutant, and presently serving as State Standing Rules Chairman.

On the national level, Mrs. Costa served as District #1 Alternate and NEC respectively, and National VAVS Representative for five years. She served on the VAVS National Advisory Committee Executive Board as Vice Chair moving up to the position of Chairman, a position held for three years, as well as serving as the President of Partners Inc. She also served as National Senior Vice Commander, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st Jr. Vice Commanders and in those capacities as Americanism, Legislative, and Membership Chairman.

She presently serves as the VAVS Representative at the Brockton VAMC having previously served as Deputy positions held since 1990. Also serves as the Associate Representative for the Providence Rhode Island VAMC. Her total combined volunteer hours number more than 9,100. She received the esteemed President's Call to Service Award, presented by President George W. Bush, as well as the new England VISN 1 VAVS Patriot Pin. She also received honorable mention awards for the George H. Seal and DAV Auxiliary Past National Commanders' Awards, respectively.

Commander Costa has stressed that unity is a necessity that preserves the integrity of both, DAV and DAV Auxiliary. "The image of DAV and the Auxiliary needs to remain unified," she said, "Whether it be through membership, legislative initiatives, or other programs."

"Hands full of heart are DAV/DAVA helping hands. It's time for some heart work."
Commander Costa's theme is a continuous echo of her vision for unity.

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DAVSTORE.ORG

Americanism By Lynn Helms Prosser, National Americanism Chairman

Let me start by thanking everyone for your support by electing me not only as your National Third Junior Vice Commander but giving me the honor to serve as your National Americanism Chairman. As DAV Auxiliary members, it is imperative that we stay focused on our core values: Comradeship, Loyalty, Devotion, and Service. We must stay committed to fulfilling our purpose and goals through our service to the men and women who answered the call to protect our freedom and sacrificed in our defense.

Americanism is built on many principals that include freedom of worship, freedom of speech, the right to assemble, educational and work opportunities, and the right to pursue happiness so long as it doesn't harm others.

Americanism can be defined as "love of America," freedom to live a secure life through liberty and justice, individual dignity, and happiness; and the willingness of our citizens to defend our country and our Flag against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Americanism stands for peace, strength, and the courage and will for us to live as free citizens in a free land. Americanism is not a word, it is a way of life. Our citizens are vested in their ideals set forth in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

Veterans Day is celebrated to honor America's veterans for patriotism, heroism, and willingness to protect our country in the face of danger. The day pays tribute to ALL American veterans, living and deceased.

It is always celebrated each year on November 11th, regardless of the day of the week it falls on. It was originally celebrated as Armistice Day, the end of World War I. A congressional act approved the date as a federal holiday and stated it was, "dedicated to the cause of world peace and formally known as Armistice Day." Following World War II and the Korean War, the 83rd Congress heeded the urging of veterans to change the name of the holiday. On June 1, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill changing November 11 to Veterans Day. Each Veterans Day, an official wreath-laying ceremony is held at the tomb of the Unknown Soldiers in Arlington National Cemetery at 11:00 a.m. Therefore, many Veterans Day ceremonies are known to begin on the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month.

I hope that you will be making plans to attend and participate in your local Veterans Day ceremonies, parades, and activities. Its a great time to pass out American flags and DAV/DAVA brochures including membership applications. Plan to sponsor an Americanism essay writing contest in your local schools to promote youth involvement and encourage them to become volunteers in some of your programs.

Again, thank you for your service to our veterans and their families and for all that you do in your communities to promote Americanism. From my home to yours, may God bless you, your family, our veterans, our troops, and may we always stay, "America Strong."

Membership By Ellen Timmerman, National Membership Chairman

Membership is the life blood of any organization and without new membership there are usually very few new ideas to help an organization to move forward.

We are going to try something new this year to help grow our membership. It will be called the "Membership Sprint Series." The "Membership Sprint" will be split into three separate drives: October–December, January–March and April–June. At the end of the each Membership Sprint, everyone who has signed up a new paid member will have their name put in a drawing that will be held at the end of each "Membership Sprint" and the person whose name is drawn will receive \$100.

What will remain the same is the following: when you sign up five (5) or more new members you will receive a certificate of appreciation from National Headquarters; recruiters of 25 or more paid members will receive a certificate valued at \$30 for a DAV store purchase; and, the "Top Recruiter of the Year" will receive \$200.

On the National Auxiliary web site (davauxiliary.org/membership/Publications) you will be able to download two different ads that can be used in the newspaper and cards that can be printed out (front and back) that can be given out with your information. The flyers that Sr. Vice Commander Craig Johniken created will also remain available on the web site.

Helping our veterans and their families is our main goal; so the more people we have working at this the more we can.

Good luck, have fun, and be good to each other.

National Bylaw Amendments Approved by National Convention

Page N-6, ARTICLE I – NATIONAL CONVENTION, Section 4: Delegates, Paragraph 2, Sentence 2, regarding units: Delete “elected” in four places. That sentence would then read:

Each unit shall be entitled to one delegate and one alternate for its charter, and one delegate and one alternate for each twenty-five life members or major fraction thereof whose unit strength has been verified by National Headquarters.

Page N-5, ARTICLE I – NATIONAL CONVENTION, Section 3: Composition: Delete “elected.” This paragraph would then read:

The National Convention shall be composed of the elected national officers, the past national commanders, and the delegates representing the state departments and units of the organization.

Page U-16, ARTICLE XVI – CONVENTIONS: Add new Section 2. New Section 2 would then read:

Section 2: In the event there are more members who wish to be delegates than delegate votes available, an election will be held to select the delegates and/or alternates to a convention.

Page S-18, ARTICLE IX – SUPPLEMENT TO STATE BYLAWS – STATE STANDING RULES, Section 1: Supplement to State Bylaws/State Standing Rules, Paragraph 1: Delete “the first business session of a state convention” and substitute with “a vote to adopt or amend.” The paragraph will then read:

A copy of the completed Supplement to State Bylaws adopted at the previous State Convention and a copy of any proposed amendment(s) to the State Standing Rules shall be distributed to the delegates prior to a vote to adopt or amend.

Page S-19, ARTICLE IX – SUPPLEMENT TO STATE BYLAWS – STATE STANDING RULES, Section 1: Supplement to State Bylaws/State Standing Rules, Paragraph 4, Items a., b., and Note: Delete “Three” in all items and substitute with “Two.” Items a., b., and Note will then read:

- a. **Two (2) copies** of the completed Supplement to State Bylaws.
- b. **Two (2) copies** of any adopted amendment(s) to the State Standing Rules. (If there are no amendment(s) to the State Standing Rules, it shall be indicated on the Supplement to State Bylaws.)

Page U-2, ARTICLE VI – ELECTION OF UNIT OFFICERS – Section 1, Sentence 3. Delete the words “in writing.” Section 1, Sentence 3, will then read:

The Adjutant shall notify all life members at least ten (10) days prior to any nominations and/or elections.

Page U-25, MEMBERSHIP INITIATION CEREMONY, Paragraph 2. Delete “silently.” Paragraph 2 will then read:

COMMANDER – Members please stand***. I invite each of you to participate again in the Membership Initiation Ceremony.

The family of Past National Commander Linda Stake wishes to extend their heartfelt appreciation for the many expressions of condolences offered to them by the wonderful members of DAV and DAV Auxiliary. They were overwhelmed by your kindness and compassionate gestures.

2016 - 2017 National Officers

National Commander - Frances J. Costa, Massachusetts

Senior Vice Commander & Mae Holmes Chm. - William Craig Johniken, Texas

1st Jr. Vice Commander & Membership Chm. - Ellen L. Timmerman, New Mexico

2nd Jr. Vice Commander & Legislative Chm. - Diane J. Franz, Florida

3rd Jr. Vice Commander & Americanism Chm. - Lynn Helms Prosser, South Carolina

4th Jr. Vice Commander & Community Service Chm. - Dorothy Reese, Georgia

National Judge Advocate - Donna Adams, Arizona

National Chairmen and Appointees

National Commander Frances Costa made the following appointments with the approval of the National Executive Committee:

National Chaplain - Aura-Lee Nicodemus, New Hampshire

History Chairman - Margaret M. Snelling, North Carolina

Hospital Chairman - Joyce V. Jefferson, South Dakota

Interim Constitution & Bylaws Committee - Donna M. Tanner, Chairman, Massachusetts;

Delores A. Roussey, Florida; Cheryl Connors, New York

Junior Activities Chairman - Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, California

Sgt. At Arms - Sandra D. Fincel, Massachusetts

VAVS Representative - Nancy O. Mooney, Massachusetts

VAVS Deputy Representative - Donna M. Folcarelli, Rhode Island

VAVS Deputy Representative - Ann Glende, Kentucky

National Adjutant - Pat Kemper, Kentucky

National Assistant Adjutant - Bunny Clos, Kentucky

National History Program By Margaret Snelling, National History Chairman

Hello all you history buffs. I see you out there!

Can we talk? I want National Commander Costa's History Book and your Department Commander's History Book to be the best ever. We can do this. When Commander Fran visits your state, take many pictures and share them with me.

How many of you have judged history books at the National Convention? Isn't it thrilling when you find that winning book? Now, how many of you have prepared a Department History book? Doesn't it give you a sense of accomplishment when it is finished? I know! I have had that feeling.

I remember reading in someone's report in Headquarters News that "When we plant a seed, we reap a harvest." I am planting a history seed and I hope to reap a harvest of history books at the National Convention in New Orleans.

Our Department Commanders have started a beautiful journey of representing your State, so what better way to show your support than by keeping a record in pictures of happenings this membership year. With all the media ways of recording I know you never miss a chance to take a picture.

So why not download some of those interesting shots to my e-mail address; greyvegaschick@outlook.com or mail to: Margaret Snelling, 548 White Oaks Drive Apt 327, Salisbury, NC 28147. I would love pictures from the Atlanta Convention.

Thank you for all the pictures that will be coming my way.

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

The theme selected by our National Commander this year is Unity.

What a powerful theme!! The Bible notes in 1 Peter 3:8 "Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind."

We in the DAVA should be in unity at all times. Unity does not mean we have to share the same opinion at all times, but rather that we must be humble enough to listen to each other and unite to a common decision that focuses on the mission of our organization first and foremost, and to focus on the unity of that decision. We must remember the importance of brotherly love as we come to that decision and try to be kind to each other and tender hearted.

We excel in sympathy. Our recent National Convention showed how we could unite in expressing our sympathy. There were lots of great ideas on how we could express the sadness we felt at losing those we hold dear and each of those ideas brought us closer together as we shared memories of those members who had departed our ranks over the past year. We mourned together, and we celebrated their lives together and united in our expressions of sympathy. We were united in spirit.

How do we unite in brotherly love and show a tender heart? The most important way we demonstrate that is respect for each other. We listen to the ideas of each person involved, we work together to come to a unified mission-focused decision. We are kind to each other. Although we all do not share the same ideas at all times, we express our differences of opinions in a kind and respectful manner. Did you ever think to ask the person you disagree with why they feel differently than you do about the issue? This often enlightens us to the underlying reason for the feelings that they share on an issue and provides a different perspective and may even change our mind on how we see the issue.

We can never expect to agree on every issue nor should we. We see the world from different places and our backgrounds, education, and experiences shape this, but what is most important is that we express these differences kindly. We also each have different talents to bring to the DAVA and I am so thankful for the amazing talented members we have who can make a meeting room into a beautiful banquet hall in minutes, those who make quilts, hats, mittens, or even use old wedding gowns to create masterpieces to give to those who have suffered the terrible loss of a child. Our members are each uniquely talented. When we unite, whether in service or support of each other, we are unstoppable.

VAVS By Nancy Mooney, National VAVS Representative

September is an important month in the calendar for DAVA Representatives in the VA program. It is the end of the VA fiscal year. That means time to complete your annual joint reviews. It is your responsibility to make contact with the voluntary service department at your assigned local VAMC to schedule an appointment to sit down and review all the activities that were performed by the units that serve that particular VA Medical Center.

It is a good idea to check your files to see if your records are complete so you have accurate accountability for events that were performed for the year October 1 2015 - September 30, 2016. Recently many VA Medical Centers have reported that units are not filling out the required activity sheets when they are sponsoring an event at the VA Medical Center. The VA wants your members to be acknowledged for their input and caring support of our veterans at the various VA Medical Centers so please make sure you fill out activity forms.

The Annual Joint Review provides the opportunity for the Chief of Voluntary Services (or other staff member at the VA Medical Center) and the VAVS Representative to share where they feel the DAVA's strengths were exhibited during the year, as well as any shortfalls noticed by the VA staff. Also, as the DAVA Representative you may share with the VA your concerns while performing events or possible changes that might enhance the performances of our volunteers. New goals will be discussed by both parties at this time for the upcoming year.

The VA Voluntary Service departments are excited to have our units sharing time with their veterans. They appreciate our time and donations which add to the betterment of the lives of the VA hospitalized veterans under the care of the VA Medical Centers.

Thank you National Commander Fran Costa for the appointment as DAVA National VAVS Representative. I am honored to serve in this position again this year.

Thank you DAVA members for your efforts and volunteer hours to serve the veterans in the many VA Medical Centers across our great country.

Frances Costa
National Commander

Patricia Kemper
National Adjutant

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DAV AUXILIARY 2016

990-N e-Postcard

Units and state departments are required to file an annual 990-N e Postcard, as required by the IRS. Failure to file for three consecutive years will result in revocation of the unit's tax exempt status. Once filing has been completed and approved, please send the confirmation to state and national headquarters to remain in compliance with the national bylaws.

From the Desk of National Commander Frances Costa

First let me thank all of you for your support and confidence in electing me as your National Commander. I promise to all of you that I will service this organization and position with my whole heart and soul because of the passion that I have for our veterans.

How do we support our disabled veterans? By stepping forward as a member to assist your unit in legislative endeavors, membership, community service, and being a VA volunteer and involving Junior members.

The purpose of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary is service. Let me start by thanking all of the Auxiliary members who participate in service to our veterans and communities. When end of year reports are in, it impresses me to see just how much service was performed by our members and units. I urge all of our members to continue this purpose of the DAVA in the coming year. I challenge all of our units to maintain records of service performed by their unit members and report it on the end of year reports which will be due in May 2017.

I know from personal experience that we all perform different types of service and don't keep a log of all of it as we should. Service to veterans could mean becoming a registered volunteer at your local VA medical center (VAMC) or outpatient clinics, VA contracted nursing homes. Auxiliary members are also encouraged to be drivers for the DAV Transportation program. Our hospital service coordinators can always use a volunteer to assist with manning the phones.

Service to the community comes in many forms, whether it is volunteering in your church, neighborhood schools and libraries, food pantries and soup kitchens just to name a few. Many of us volunteer, not for accolades, but because there is a need. We would like to hear from you throughout the year, if you have any ideas that we could include in future correspondence that might trigger another member's desire to become involved.

Another means of service to our veterans is Auxiliary membership. By maintaining our membership, we are serving our veterans by numbers which present a united front when legislation is at hand that benefits our veterans and their families.

I would like to remind our membership early of the approaching holidays and encourage you to remember our veterans (hospitalized and homebound) through this period of time when many are lonely, without family nearby. Try to plan early and host VA hospital socials or events at your meetings inviting these veterans. Reach out and remember:

Hands full of heart are DAV/DAVA helping hand. It's time for some heart work!

Successful National Fall Conference!

The National Fall Conference was well attended and an overall success. Our National Chairmen presented informative and entertaining programs designed to educate and inspire, and the second annual health and wellness fair offered beneficial information. Thank you to all who participated in the event and everyone can start planning for the 2017 Fall Conference in Lexington, Kentucky!

