

Six State Departments have achieved 2013-2014 membership quota!

Congratulations!

Georgia
Maine
New Jersey
New Mexico
North Carolina
Puerto Rico

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Unit and State Department Funds

DAV tag line: *Fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served.*
DAVA tag line: *Making a difference.*

Both tag lines are fitting messages describing our fundamental purpose and mission. Since being chartered in 1922, DAV Auxiliary members have been exceptionally generous with their time, compassion, and donations. In partnership with DAV, our amazing members have inspired, impressed, and made an absolute difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families in keeping with our mission of service.

We have an obligation to our generous donors to assure their donations will be used to support DAV and/or DAVA programs. There are other very worthy non-profit organizations; however, we must be conscientious stewards of the funds donated to **our** organization. The rationale being – had the donor wanted their donation to go to another non-profit group, they would have appropriated their funds to that cause. Instead, they chose our organization, making it the responsibility of our members, units, and state department to ensure the funds are expended as the donor intended.

Membership By Linda Stake, National Membership

Where has the time gone? It seems that only yesterday we began our new recruiting year! Have you reached your goal? Have you surpassed your goal? You still have time, although it may seem short. Sponsor those five or fifteen new senior members and send the applications to National Headquarters by June 2014 to receive your “Reach for the Stars” pin or “You are a Star” water globe.

Thank you and congratulations to Annie Woods and Juanita Slavinsky, members of Florida #18. What strength these two members have accomplished for their unit, state, and national headquarters!

Remember, the person who recruits the most members will receive a \$250.00 check at National Convention in Las Vegas this year. There is still time to “Reach for the Stars”. Good luck to all!

Mae Holmes Report

In order to qualify for the Mae Holmes Award, units must reach their membership quota by April 1, 2014.

To assure processing, all membership applications and payments must be received in the national headquarters office by March 25.

If your unit does not make quota by April 1, please complete the report and submit in order that the information can be compiled and reported by your district’s NEC and the National Mae Holmes Chairman.

Legislative

By Frances Costa, National Legislative Chairman

It's that time again when units are filling out and submitting their End of Year Reports. Please take the time to print the bill numbers and the subject matter on the contact part of the form. It is very helpful when judging reports both on the State and National levels to be able to have the bill #'s. There are some bills that have similar content but have different numbers - some senate and some house bills.

I just returned from the Disabled American Veterans Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, DC. It was a very busy and informative week. Despite the snowfall on Tuesday, the 25th, it was very impressive to see how many DAV and Auxiliary members were present at the DAV Rally on the steps to the Capitol building. The number of Auxiliary members present for the conference was noticeable and their assistance with personal contact with the legislators was helpful as well as being present for the DAV National Commander's Testimony before the Veterans Committee. Commander Johnston did the DAV proud and focused on VA Budget funding, Caregivers needs, and Claims processing efforts.

We all wore our "Keep the Promise" buttons proudly to convey DAV's message that our country needs to honor its promise to our veterans who kept their promise to protect our country and our rights. Thank you to all who contacted their legislators on the 25th via phone during DAV's *Operation: Keep the Promise*. At that rally we heard the stirring words of distinguished veterans and guests, who laid out a challenge before Congress, and to the American People to keep the promise made to veterans—and particularly to those who paid a high price in military service to our Nation. We were joined by thousands of veterans and fellow Americans online, who are lending their voices to our call to action. *Operation: Keep the Promise* is focused on ensuring that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is afforded sufficient, timely, and predictable funding in advance for all its budgetary accounts, to enable it to carry out your expressed intent, as made so eloquent by Lincoln's words, "...to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan." To do this, VA needs a sufficient budget.

We must continue to contact our Senators and Congressmen and urge their support of the bills that affect our veterans and their families (**taken from Cmdr. Johnston's presentation**).

Again, I urge our Auxiliary members to sign up for the Commanders Action Network. It is very simple and it does not require much effort on your part to follow up and be proactive on specific pieces of legislation as requested. DAV will send you an email and the letters are already set up for you and you only have to put in your personal information so that the letters are sent to your specific Senators and Congressmen. You can also write your own letters and follow up with personal phone calls to their local and Washington offices if you wish and are encouraged to do so.

Hospital

By Linda Bailey, National Hospital Chairman

New Year, New Day, Same Mission. We as DAVA members have the awesome opportunity to assist our Veterans in so many ways!

We all start resolutions and if you have not made a resolution this year to visit a Veteran in your local Nursing Home, Homebound, or Local Hospital, I challenge you to add that to your list.

During Christmas, the local nursing home I visit had a con-

test to see how many Christmas cards the patients received and put on their doors to win a prize. I talked to several 1st and 2nd grade teachers to ask if the students would like to make Christmas cards for the Veterans. I picked up 237 Christmas cards for our Veterans from these children. The Veterans loved all the cards and read the messages on every card!

They had so many cards they quit counting for the contest.

The 1st grade children asked their teachers if they could make Valentines for the Veterans. They made 117 Valentines to be given out to our Veterans at the local nursing home!

To see the smiles on our Veterans faces is priceless, sometimes the most simple things have the most meaning to others.

Winter is on its way out and spring is on its way in.



Community Service By Ellen Timmerman, National Community Service Chairman

I received information from **Marquette County Unit 22, MI** about a project they are involved in that is so important. A member of their unit is making PURPLE HATS to help raise awareness of "shaken baby syndrome" and the unit is helping by collecting the yarn for this project. The hats are put on the newborn babies when they leave the hospital along with information about crying babies. (If you would like the information on this I will be happy to send what I have to you.)

As you fill out your reports remember: **"Community Service is doing something that helps another person that is not a family member"**.

The "Table of Values" is used to fill out the Community Service Report and can be found in the Auxiliary Manual, but just in case it is needed, you can find it below. God bless you all and keep up the good work!

TABLE OF VALUES

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. All cash donations must be checks issued by your Unit. | |
| 2. All other donations will go under Value of Donations. | |
| 3. Fund drive money must be checks issued by your Unit. | |
| 4. Coupons shall have ½ value stated on the coupon. | |
| New clothing Actual Cost | Personal items – |
| Used clothing ½ Original Cost | (combs, soaps, cosmetics, etc.) Actual Cost |
| Food Actual Cost | Gifts Actual Cost |
| New furniture Actual Cost | Professional & Trade Services Actual Cost |
| Used furniture ½ Original Cost | Layman services for above ½ Cost |
| New linens, dishes, etc. Actual Cost | (member who is not certified, graduate, etc.) |
| Used linens, dishes, etc. ½ Original Cost | Parties & entertainment Actual Cost |

Americanism By Craig Johniken, National Community Service Chairman

I have been contemplating what we as an organization can do to bring more understanding of our Americanism Program. What can we do to teach patriotism?

In order to answer that question I began trying to understand why some folks have it and some don't. Why does a person graduate high school and immediately join the military and another one would do almost anything to avoid serving their country? Why does one person talk while the National Anthem is being played and another one stands up and salutes? Why does a picture of a fallen soldier make one person weep and then another one simply does not even notice? I think if I can find those answers then I can answer what I was contemplating in the first place.

Lots of questions, but I think there really is only one answer. I believe the answer lies in what we are exposed to. For example, my wife joined the military not long after high school; her Mother and Father had served. This is what she was exposed to and her family believed that patriotism is a great asset in your life. I watch my grandchild, Ashton, being taught not only at home but also in school great values that include patriotism and an understanding of the men and women who have served. Recently her class was assigned to interview a veteran, video the interview, and show the school the interview. The questions were great and often a great deal of emotion was shown in these videos. This accomplished several things. First it taught the child doing the assignment how to interview, document, and prepare questions. More importantly, it taught the interviewer as well as the audience what patriotism is and how men and women have fought to protect American ideals.

Assuming I have the correct answer, the question remains what can WE do? We have to tap our greatest asset, which are the children. Programs at schools give us an audience to teach a child about the flag, who we are, what we do, and why. If a child learns how to fold a flag and properly care for it, they will carry this message with them. Children can't help but share anything new they learn. Perhaps your unit can set up an essay contest at one of your schools with the subject being, "Why I am proud to be an American." I am sure each of you can come up with many ideas that can be done.

Look into the eyes of a child and discover the future. They are our greatest asset!

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

DAV AUXILIARY

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United in Service

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February
Water Globe Recipient

Debra Parker, Arizona #24

Sign up 15 new paid senior members and receive your own personalized "You're a Star" Water Globe!



Sign up five new paid senior members and receive a Reach For The Stars lapel pin!

Deadlines!!! -

- **Education Scholarship Applications** must be postmarked no later than **March 15, 2014**.
- **PNC Outstanding Member of the Year Award** - Submissions must be postmarked no later than **March 31, 2014**.
- **Mae Holmes Award** - Units must achieve quota by **April 1, 2014**, to qualify for Mae Holmes Award consideration. Submit membership applications and payments no later than **March 25, 2014**.

New Auxiliary Units

Craven County #40
New Bern, North Carolina
Chartered February 19, 2014

Star #24
Surprise, Arizona
Chartered February 20, 2014

2014 DAV/DAVA National Convention ~ Las Vegas, Nevada Bally's Las Vegas Hotel and Casino

3645 Las Vegas Blvd. South - Las Vegas, NV 89109 - 800.634.3434
\$112 Single/Double

August 9-12, 2014

Registration and NEC meeting scheduled for Thursday August 7. The convention agenda is unconfirmed at this time.

DAV Auxiliary Welcomes a New Employee

On March 31, 2014, DAV Auxiliary National Headquarters office welcomes new employee Ann Glende. Ann's involvement with the organization began 25 years ago as a young junior member and continues today as a very active and dedicated life member. Having served the state department of Wisconsin in various elected and appointed capacities, including state commander, she is currently serving a sixth term as state treasurer. She has served as 12th District National Executive Committee Member and other national appointments including National Junior Activities Chairman and completing her second term as National VAVS Representative. She was also a contributing member of the organization's Strategic Planning Committee.

In her new role as Public Relations Specialist, we are certain she will bring enthusiasm and a wealth of knowledge to the position as she continues her mission of service on behalf of the DAV Auxiliary.