

DAV Auxiliary National Headquarters office will be closed December 25, 26, and January 1, 2015.



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From the Desk of National Commander LeeAnn Karg...

Happy Holidays everyone! This is a time for thanksgiving and sharing, a time to remember why this country was founded, and to embrace the past and look to the future. We need to remember our heritage and instill those patriotic values in our youth. Our Soldiers and veterans fought and are fighting for those values. Our government made a commitment to take care of them and it is up to all of us to make sure they keep that promise. Please help by contacting your legislators, both locally and in Washington, DC. There are several bills that our Washington headquarters office is working on and they need you to help them get the word out. Check the DAV website for the specific bills that are pending right now.

February 22 – 25, 2015, the C & A will be hosting the DAV Mid-Winter Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. This is a time when you can meet face to face with your legislators and tell them what you expect from them as elected officials. I hope to see many of you there. The Auxiliary will be laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Saturday February 21, 2015, while in Washington, DC. It will be great honor to remember our fallen soldiers in this way. We must never forget!

National Adjutant Judy Hezlep Retires



As the 2014 calendar year comes to a close, so does the 46-year DAV Auxiliary career of Judy Hezlep. Serving as National Adjutant since 2008, Judy credits her longevity with the organization to the true mission of service to our nation's veterans and their families and the personal sense of fulfillment as a result of that commitment.

Judy first became a DAV Auxiliary employee shortly after the headquarters office was moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, from Colorado Springs, Colorado, and has played a key role in executing the many changes and technological advancements of the organization. Her dedication has extended far beyond employment with her being an active member on the state and local unit levels.

As she leaves office and moves on to the next chapter of her life, the national officers, national staff, and DAV Auxiliary members wish her well. She will certainly be missed.

Retirement may be an ending, a closing, but it is also a new beginning.

~ Catherine Pulsifer

Record Retention

Each year, units and state departments should take the opportunity to review their files and discard any item that is beyond the required retention schedule. Below you will find suggested retention for items as published by the Better Business Bureau and Internal Revenue Service.

When discarding files, remember to do so in a secure manner. Many banks will host “shredding days” that allow community members to shred sensitive documents for free. These events typically take place in the spring.

Accounts Payable Ledgers & Schedules	7 years	Financial Statements	Permanently
Accounts Receivable Ledgers & Schedules	7 years	Expired Insurance Policies	3 years
Audit Reports	Permanently	Invoices	7 years
Bank Reconciliations	2 years	Journals	Permanently
Bank Statements	3 years	Minutes	Permanently
Canceled Checks	7 years	Stenographers' Notebooks	1 year
Canceled Checks for special contracts, etc.	Permanently	Voucher Register and Schedules	7 years
Correspondence (General)	2 years	Voucher for Payments	7 years

VAVS

by Patty Davis, National VAVS Representative
 Rose Williams, National VAVS Deputy

Every year, Voluntary Service Program Managers and DAV Auxiliary VAVS Representatives have a meeting to fill out an Annual Joint Review, or AJR. This report is used to help measure the representative’s achievements over the past year and to help establish measureable goals for the future. AJR’s are completed once per year, and typically should be done in September or October.

If you are a VAVS Representative who has not yet met with your Voluntary Service Program Manager to complete this review, please contact them as soon as possible to schedule an appointment. AJR’s are a great way for the DAV Auxiliary to see what is working at facilities and what needs improvement, and allows us to showcase the hard work that our members and volunteers do for veterans. If you have questions regarding the AJR please do not hesitate to contact us.

Hospital by Earlene Cole, National Hospital Chairman

WOW! We are in the holiday season again. Didn't we just have a Christmas? I hope everyone is enjoying getting ready for the holiday season; however, please remember there are a lot of veterans and elderly people in hospitals and nursing homes that do not have any family or friends to celebrate the season with. We can make a big difference for them with a meal, cookies, or maybe a small gift. If it is possible, bring them to your house for your holiday meal. Just a small effort on our part can be a big thing for a lonely person.

You could also form a group to go to hospitals and nursing homes during the Christmas season and sing carols for the patients. A lot of the nursing homes and hospitals have veterans in them and just a visit makes their day. They love to have someone to just listen to their stories. If each of our members picked one veteran to do something for, think of the difference we can make and how many veterans we can make happy.

Auxiliary Members in Action!



Dallin Osborne is currently a high school senior in Arizona, and is the newest member of G.P. Houston Memorial Unit #57 in Arkansas. Dallin is extremely active in his community and has been working towards becoming an Eagle Scout. One of his last requirements before receiving this honor was to present a program in his community. Dallin decided to do his program on disabled veterans.

Along with his friends and family, Dallin organized a concert and fundraiser for veterans collecting a total of \$635.00 all of which was donated to the unit. Unit members were extremely inspired by his dedication and talent that they voted to pay for his DAV Auxiliary life membership.

"We are so proud of this awesome young man," says Linda Stake, unit treasurer. Dallin's grandmother is also a life member of the unit.

On behalf of the DAV Auxiliary, thank you Dallin for Making a Difference in your community!

Past National Commander—Maria Tedrow



Past National Commander and former National Adjutant Maria Tedrow passed away November 27, 2014.

She was elected National Commander in 1980 after serving in all elected national vice commander positions and their respective chairmanships. On the local level, she organized and was a charter member of Greene County, Pa., DAV Auxiliary Unit 123. After serving three years as Auxiliary Adjutant of the State Department of Pennsylvania, she was elected State Commander in 1972. In 1983, she joined the national DAV Auxiliary staff as Assistant National Adjutant, a position she held until her appointment as National Adjutant in July 1986. Maria retired April 30, 2008 after a long tenure with the organization.

She is survived by her son, Steven, who has requested that memorial donations be sent to DAV Auxiliary National Service Support Fund.

Legislative by Craig Johniken, National Legislative Chairman

Legislation and whether it has a positive or negative impact on us does not happen only at the Federal level. I think that sometimes we forget that we can have a voice in our State Legislation.

One issue that I believe we as auxiliary members should focus on is the State Property Tax Code in each of our states. We were blessed here in Texas when finally our Representatives and the voters saw fit to pass into law that 100% Service-Connected Disabled Veterans are tax exempt from property tax. Being just as important - two years later the code changed again allowing for a spouse of a 100% Service Connected Disabled Veteran to retain that right upon the death of their eligible veteran spouse.

This is huge when you consider the cost of home ownership and the impact to the spouse when their income has been drastically cut by the death of their spouse. This law may be the difference in someone being able to keep their home or having to sell.

I have met many spouses that find themselves ill prepared for the loss of their husband/wife. They are struggling to pay for the upkeep, mortgage, insurance and/or taxes on their home. The national average of the cost of property tax is \$2800 per year which calculates to \$233 per month. While \$233 does not seem like a lot of money, in many cases that amount of money is the difference in paying the utilities or replacing a water heater in a home. If we can take that burden off of the widow/widower of a disabled veteran and make their life a little easier then that is exactly what we should be working towards.

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

DAV AUXILIARY

LeeAnn Karg,
National Commander

3725 Alexandra Pike
Cold Spring, KY 4076

Judith Hezlep,
National Adjutant

Phone: 877.426.2838
Fax: 859.442.2095
E-mail: dava@dav.org



DAV and Auxiliary, Together As One

www.davauxiliary.org



New Auxiliary Unit

Sarge Warhime #33
Odenton, MD
Chartered 11-20-2014

*Congratulations &
Welcome!*

Unit Approves Expenditure

(Or disbursement is addressed in Unit-Approved Standing Rules)

Adjutant initiates and signs request for check.

(Jr. Vice Commander may sign in absence of Adjutant)

Unit Commander cosigns the request for check. (In Commander's absence, the Sr. Vice Commander may sign since they are the third signature on all unit bank accounts.)

Upon receipt of the properly authorized and signed request for check, Treasurer shall prepare and sign the check. (In the Treasurer's absence, the Senior Vice Commander shall cosign checks.)

Unit Commander then cosigns the check. (In the absence of the Commander or Treasurer, the Senior Vice Commander shall cosign checks.)

Reminders:

Report Forms—The national annual report forms have been mailed to the state adjutants. They will be sending them to the units in the near future. To make completion easier for the units, the forms are available online in Word and PDF fillable format.

Education Scholarship—Applications are available online for the Education Scholarship. Please read the requirements for applicants prior to filling out an application and contact our office if you have any questions.



To our Veterans, Active Military, and DAVA Members, May your hearts and homes be filled with warmth and happiness. In your thoughts and prayers, remember those who are unable to join their family celebrations this year. To those who celebrate the holiday season, we wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Happy Hanukkah, and a Joyous Kwanzaa Celebration from National Commander LeeAnn Karg, National Adjutant Judy Hezlep, and the rest of the DAV Auxiliary staff. Peace to all.