

DAV[®] Auxiliary Headquarters News

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

Congratulations to the state department of Wyoming for making quota!

Congratulations to Modesto Unit 26 in California on their charter!

**#MAKING
A
DIFFERENCE**

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DAVSTORE.ORG

From the Desk of National Commander Linda Stake...

February was a great month for supporting our veterans. I know many of you had Valentine's Day parties for hospitalized and nursing home veterans. The nursing home veterans always love to see the DAV Auxiliary whether it is a party or just visiting. It is a time for members to "make a difference."

I attended the National Veterans Day activities on February 11, 2016, at Fort Roots, the North Little Rock VAMC. When Voluntary Services Chief Michael Dobbs introduced me as the DAVA National Commander, he said, "And, the DAV is the organization that supplies transportation and brings veterans to their doctor appointments." That was spectacular because many military organizations were there, but the DAV was recognized. After speeches were over, one gentleman came up to me and said, "We need a DAV van in Northeast Arkansas."

What a wonderful few days on "the hill!" Many members of DAV and DAV Auxiliary attended the DAV Mid-Winter conference. After arriving in Washington, DC, I was honored to set a wreath at the "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier" on Saturday, February 20. That is one of the most touching and humbling experiences a commander can have. My three daughters enjoyed that experience with me. I am pleased that eight DAVA members from my unit attended Mid-Winter and saw the Wreath presentation. That night we went on a Night Tour of the Monuments. If you have never done that, the next time you are in DC think about going on one of these tours. It was fantastic.

I made remarks at the DAV opening business session on Sunday. It was enjoyable being in a room with so many of our American Heroes. I attended the DAV workshops the rest of the day. The next day after meeting with two of our congressmen, the DAVA members from Arkansas took a tour of the capitol – hosted by Congressman Rick Crawford's aid, Rachael. When we passed by the Speaker of the House's office, Rachael asked if she could take us out on the balcony. This is not something that is usually included in the Capitol Tour and it was an awesome experience standing there looking over the city of Washington, D.C.

The following day we visited the other members of Congress from Arkansas and ended with DAV National Commander Moses McIntosh presenting issues to the Joint Session of the House and Senate Veteran Affairs Committee. That evening the conference concluded with the DAV National Commander's reception.

After spending a night at the Houston airport it was good to arrive back home! Weather conditions were not cooperating with air travel; however, we made it home before noon the following day.



Americanism By Diane Franz, National 3rd Junior Vice Commander

Did you know.....

March is Women's History Month

The 2016 theme is Working to Form a More Perfect Union:

Honoring Women in Public Service and Government.

Women's History Month had its origins as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress passed Pub. L. 97-28 which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982, as "Women's History Week." Throughout the next five years, Congress continued to pass joint resolutions designating a week in March as "Women's History Week." In 1987 after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9 which designated the month of March 1987 as "Women's History Month." Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women's History Month. Since 1995, Presidents Clinton, Bush, and Obama have issued a series of annual proclamations designating the month of March as "Women's History Month."

Source: The Law Library of Congress/Women's History Month.

Clara Barton (1824-1912) - Called the "Angel of the Battlefield" for her first aid heroism during the Civil War, she was instrumental in founding the American Red Cross.

Deborah Sampson Gannett (1760-1827) - She signed up for the 4th Massachusetts Regiment under an assumed male name, becoming the first woman to enlist as a soldier in the American army. After being wounded nineteen months later, she received an honorable medical discharge and, later, a military pension.

Alice Paul (1885-1977) - Activist and suffragist who organized the 1913 women's rights march through Washington, D.C., and founded the Congressional Union for Women's Suffrage, a militant branch of the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

Harriet Tubman (1820?-1913) - As a "conductor" on the Underground Railroad, this fugitive slave helped thousands of blacks escape north prior to the Civil War, during which, she served as a Union nurse and military spy.

Mary Edwards Walker (1832-1919) - Feminist, abolitionist, prohibitionist, alleged spy, prisoner of war, and surgeon in the Civil War, Mary is the only woman ever to receive the Medal of Honor.

I recommend doing an online search for American Women in History. Sometimes we may forget that many women have influenced our American history and have helped our voices to be heard.

Past National Commander Award

By Donna Tanner, Past National Commanders' Outstanding Member of the Year Award Chairman

Do you know a member who always there and willing to do what ever it takes to get the job done?
 Someone who works behind the scenes out of the lime light?
 Someone who goes the extra mile?
 Someone who is dedicated to helping veterans and their families?

You should submit their name for consideration for the Past National Commanders' Outstanding Member of the Year Award. The recipient of this prestigious award will be brought to the National Convention and presented with the award. Even if you have sponsored an applicant in the past and they did not receive the award, resubmit their name.

Applications can be found on the website DAVAuxiliary.org and must be post marked by March 31,2016. Time is short, so please, take a look at your members and submit an application for your outstanding member.

Community Service

By Lynn Helms Prosser, National 4th Junior Vice Commander

Okay!!! It's that time of the year!!! Feeling overwhelmed and nervous??? Don't PANIC!!! You're not alone. DAV Auxiliary members are a TEAM!!! National, State, and Unit Officers and Members have a lot of work to accomplish in the next few months. The excitement of filling out reports, electing new unit officers, and preparing for conventions can and should be fun. Unit officers and chairmen can utilize information from members, unit minutes and financial reports to compile this year's activities. The proper procedures for elections can be found in the DAVA Constitution and Bylaws. If you need help, please rely on your state and national headquarters to guide you through.

Everyone knows that we are multi-taskers!!! As we start winding DOWN this year, we must start winding UP for next year!!! And, oh Yes.....we must continue on our current paths and finish up projects and programs we now have in progress.

Just as there is no beginning or ending of a circle, our DAV Auxiliary members will never see the end of their devotion, loyalty, comradeship, and service to our veterans and their families, our communities, and our nation.

State conventions would be a great time and place for units to share ideas for various community service projects and ways to have successful fundraisers. As your National Community Service Chairman, I want to encourage all State Commanders to allocate time for an open forum so unit members can discuss ideas with each other.

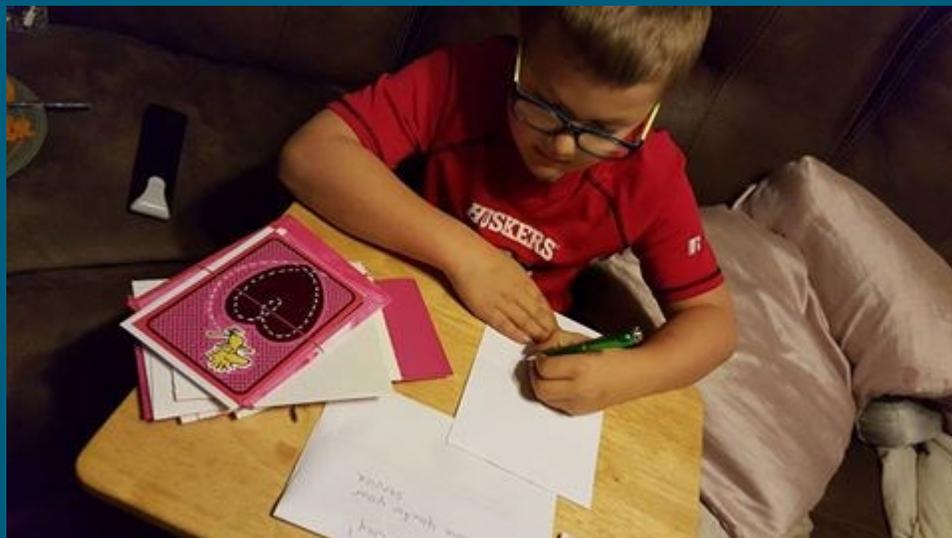
Auxiliary members have a duty to teach our junior members values such as compassion, kindness, understanding, and caring. We must be positive role models by practicing good citizenship and community service leadership skills for our next generation.

I want to thank all of you for your volunteer service and I encourage all units to fill out their reports so state and national headquarters can get a true estimate on the value of your dedication, love and service you provide in your communities.

As always, I encourage units to build a strong, positive working relationship with their chapters. Stay focused on our dedicated purpose: fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served.

From my home to yours, may God bless you, your family, our veterans and troops and may we always stay "America Strong."

Junior Member Highlight!



Pictured to the left is Connor, a junior member for the DAV Auxiliary Unit 7 of Lincoln, Nebraska. Connor generously took time to write Valentine's Day cards for veterans residing in the care facilities in Seward, Nebraska. His efforts are something to be proud of. The DAV Auxiliary is honored to be represented by such an enthusiastic junior member! Thank you so much for your example of true volunteerism. Keep up the good work Connor!

Linda Stake

National Commander

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FEBRUARY UPDATES

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

DAV National Convention 2016

Hyatt Regency Atlanta,

GA on Peach Street

July 31—August 3

Phone: (888)421-1442

Or (404)577-1234

\$125 Single/Double

Junior Activities

By Darlene Spence, National Junior Activities Chairman

The DAV Auxiliary units must encourage our junior members to be involved in all appropriate activity programs of the organization. Of utmost importance are: LEADERSHIP, SUPPORT, ACTION, CREATIVITY, OPPORTUNITY, RECOGNITION, AND DECISION-MAKING.

LEADERSHIP - Adult leadership must have a vested interest in junior members. Learning by the example set by leaders and other auxiliary members, juniors experience first-hand the rewards of volunteerism and service to the community as well as the significance of honoring our nation's veterans.

SUPPORT – Visible support gives junior members a sense of security and helps them feel that they belong and are accepted. Don't forget that the key person to assist our juniors is the Unit Junior Activities Chairman. This chairman could even be a junior member. They also need our support.

ACTION – A call to action can identify both juniors and adults who want to be involved. Action leads to involvement so please remember when your Unit is doing volunteer work within the community and at the VA, always invite your juniors to participate, and say thank you for a job well done.

CREATIVITY – Involving juniors in the planning of activities allows them to use their creativity at a young age. As they grow toward adulthood, experiences as juniors will help them to be able to better think through difficult situations. Harnessing the enthusiasm and anticipation of juniors leads to creativity, and adding fun activities also inspires creativity.

OPPORTUNITY AND DECISION MAKING – Providing the opportunity for those who are age 17 or younger to belong to the Auxiliary's junior organization takes encouraging and supporting the parents and guardians in their decision-making. Remember a unit does not have to have a junior charter to have active juniors. Any junior that can attend the unit meetings and participate in activities should be given the opportunity and kept involved.

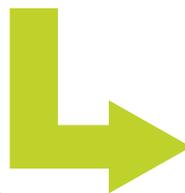
RECOGNITION – Recognition inspires. If you have an outstanding junior/s, please make sure you enter his or her name for the National Outstanding Junior Award. This is a very honorable and prestigious award. The ages for the awards are 7-10, 11-14 and 15-17.

For the 2016 National Convention, we need ideas for a contest to highlight the talents of our junior members. Juniors and Members please send your ideas to National Headquarters attention Junior Activities Chairman.



Remember "Ordinary people together can do extraordinary things."

**THIS YEAR IS A LITTLE
DIFFERENT!**
(Note the Dates)



National Convention Schedule

NEC Meeting - 07/29

District Meetings - 07/30

Joint Opening Session - 07/31

Auxiliary First Business Session - 07/31

Auxiliary Second Business Session - 08/01

Auxiliary Final Business Session - 08/03

Introduction of National Officers - 08/03

