

DAV[®] Auxiliary Headquarters News



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

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!

#MAKING A DIFFERENCE

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From the Desk of National Commander Linda Stake...

As I write this article, I do so with a heavy heart. Some of our friends left our lives during the first half of the month. First of all, I learned that my Maryland friend, Chuck Meyers, passed away after a long hospital battle; then, in less than a week, my friend Buddy Rickman, DAV Department Commander of Florida, had a fatal heart attack; next came Andrea Hall, one of Arkansas's own DAVA Past State Commanders; and finally, Carroll Prosser from South Carolina, our DAVA National Jr. Vice Commander Lynn Prosser's husband. Even though these wonderful DAV/DAVA members will no longer suffer with pain, the ones left behind will continue the painful journey without them. Rest in peace our beloved. Prayers for your families continue.

April – This will be a busy time of travel for me. My trips in April are Snowmass, Colorado; Cincinnati, Ohio; San Juan, Puerto

Rico; Kansas City, Missouri; and Atlanta, Georgia. On April 15, I have been asked to speak at the Annual Volunteer Luncheon in Little Rock, Arkansas. In between these travels, I am really looking forward to seeing all of my friends who are able to come to Little Rock and help celebrate my year as DAVA National Commander at the "Band and Bar-B-Que" and "Testimonial Dinner."

May & June – I look forward to attending State Conventions in Maine, Mississippi, Hawaii, New York, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. I am excited just thinking about seeing many of my friends and making new friends.

As I end this article, I want to "thank" you all for everything you do to make life easier for disabled American veterans and their families. It is you, the member, who makes our organization successful. Please keep recruiting and bringing in new members.

Mae Holmes (Outstanding Unit)

By Frances Costa, Senior Vice Commander

The Mae Holmes end of year reports will start coming in soon from the State Department Adjutants to the respective Chairmen. I look forward to compiling the information for my annual report from what your units have sent in on your Mae Holmes report form. We have many units that I know do a lot of work and I hope to be able to acknowledge that work.

When I think of all that our Auxiliary members accomplish, I reflect on a common bond with the words: focus, freedom, acceptance, peace, love, truth, insight, and wellness as well as forgiveness. These can all describe what we discover when we give of ourselves for the betterment of others during our meetings and unit or department events. Those words bring happiness and togetherness as we work together for a common purpose. We are a group of awesome, generous, and passionate members committed to our role in the lives of disabled veterans and their families. Anyone who's ever felt truly valued by a group knows that that feeling makes it a lot more fun to participate.

Keep in mind that, it would be nice to have all units make quota by April 1, but we know that is not possible. There is flexibility in the judging of reports this year. Units still submit their Mae Holmes report but have more opportunity by the contents of its activity in all categories.

Thank you for all that you do and I wish we could award all units and members alike for their passion.

DAV and Auxiliary – Partners Pulling Together!

VAVS Report By Nancy Mooney, VAVS National Representative

This year VA Voluntary Service is celebrating its 70th anniversary. VAVS is one of the largest volunteer programs in the federal government. Since the VAVS program was founded in 1946, VA volunteers have given more than 782 million hours in support of veterans seeking VA health care across the country. In fiscal year 2015, regular scheduled volunteers plus occasional volunteers totaled 10.9 million combined hours. This includes the many types of service provided by members of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

It is time for units to gather information of their time, donations of items and monetary donations and record them on the VAVS year end report form. I encourage all units to fill out this report. It is a means of recording your unit's hard work and may provide other units insight into ideas that they may also use. Submit the report to your respective state adjutant no later than May 1st of 2016. All reports are to be filled out in triplicate. One copy stays with the unit and two are sent to your state adjutant who keeps one for judging at your state convention. At the close of the judging at your state convention, the winning report in each category will be sent by your state adjutant to DAVA National Headquarters for judging at the DAVA National Convention. A reminder for filling out your report: be sure to complete the heading, fill in each line, if your total of donations exceeds \$1,000 it must be itemized on the back of the report, and remember the Unit Commander or VAVS Chairman must sign the report.

Thank you all for your dedication to serving our veterans at the VA Medical Centers across this great country of ours.

Warrants/Vouchers/Check Requests

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

Units -

- The Adjutant shall initiate all warrants/vouchers/check requests as approved by unit members.
- Warrants/vouchers/check requests must be co-signed by the Commander*
- Treasurer issues and signs checks in accordance with the warrant/voucher/check request.
- Commander co-signs checks*

***In the absence of the Unit Commander, the Senior Vice Commander shall co-sign warrants/vouchers/check requests and checks. The Junior Vice Commander shall co-sign warrants/vouchers/check requests in the absence of the Adjutant.**

State Departments -

- Adjutant or Finance Committee Chairman shall initiate and sign all warrants/vouchers/check requests.
- Warrants/vouchers/check requests must be co-signed by the Commander*
- Treasurer issues and signs checks in accordance with properly prepared warrant/voucher check request.
- Commander co-signs checks*

***In the absence of the State Commander, the State Senior Vice Commander shall co-sign warrants/vouchers/check requests. In the absence of the State Treasurer or State Commander, the State Senior Vice Commander shall sign or co-sign checks.**

Chaplain's Corner

By Aura-Lee Nicodemus, DAV Auxiliary Chaplain

Lead by your example

Educate yourself and your members-we all can learn and grow.

Advocate for your members and those we serve.

Devote your time and talent to growing the next generation of leaders.

Empower your members to grow and lead small projects or your leadership line.

Respect the ideas of others, it is important to listen and try new ideas.

Serve others. You were selected to lead, but often that is best shown in how you serve the members and those we are committed to care for.

Honor the traditions of the organization, but still allow change and growth.

Integrity is a cornerstone of any leader. Be honest and fair with yourself and others.

Praise-every one of our members needs positive feedback and appreciation.

Titus 2:7 New Living Translation

“And you yourself must be an example to them by doing good works of every kind. Let everything you do reflect the integrity and seriousness of your teaching.”

This is not only a pivotal time in our organization where new leaders will be selected to shape our future, but also in our Nation. It is important to participate at all levels in shaping the future. If you were not selected at this point to lead in the position you were seeking, it is a time for self-reflection and growth to become the leader that you would like to be in the future. Although it is disappointing when we are not selected, it is often the time when if we seek guidance, feedback, and understanding from trusted organizational leaders that we can mold our actions and words to become the strong future leader that we feel we can be. This may truly be a beginning of the greatest personal growth in our lives!!

Elections

The majority of Auxiliary units hold their elections during this time of year. Here is a checklist of election reminders:

- Send written notice of officer nomination/election no less than ten days prior to the nomination/election. Be sure this notification includes date, time, and meeting location.
- Members entitled to vote must be in good standing which means their life membership is “Active Status,” and they are not indebted to the organization.
- Generate a membership list to determine the paid status of those who are running for an office and those who will be casting votes. *Everyone should indicate an active status.*
- The election must be held for each individual office; not an entire slate.
- Prior to installation of the unit treasurer, complete an audit by a proper audit committee in accordance with the national bylaws.
- Following installation of officers, send a completed officer report to national headquarters, your DAVA state department, and DAV state department. Keep a copy for unit files. [A fillable version is available.](#)
- Within five months and fifteen days of the close of your accounting period be sure to file the IRS required e-postcard, Form 990-N. Visit the following link: www.irs.gov/990n

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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

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

Legislative

By Ellen Timmerman, National Legislative Chairman

It's the end of another year for our reports. Remember there is a change in the report that allows you to count contacts you made on legislation without a "Bill Number."

I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the DAV Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, DC, and attend DAV National Commander Moses McIntosh's address to the Veterans Affairs Committee. It really seemed like the points Commander McIntosh made were being heard. The questions that were asked by the committee showed an understanding of the problems that need to be addressed for veterans and their families.

Even though it seemed like the Veterans Affairs Committee members were listening to what was being presented to them, it doesn't mean we can stop pushing for the legislation that is needed to help our veterans and their families. If there is one thing we as Auxiliary Members know how to do, it is contact our legislators and give them a push in the right direction.

The following issues are what were presented to our representative:

Reforming the Veterans Health Care System

Comprehensive Support for Caregivers of Veterans of All Eras

HR-2894, the Care for All Veterans Act

HR-1969 Military and Veterans Caregiver Services Improvement Act of 2015

HR-1899 Caregivers Expansion and Improvement Act of 2015

Legislation to Enact a Fully Developed Appeals Pilot Program

HR-677 was passed by the House

S-2473 (is pending)

These bills would provide appellants with alternate options for expediting their appeals.

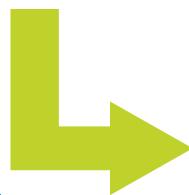
On February 15, 2016, Senator Dean Heller of Nevada introduced S. 2596. This bill would permit veterans who have service-connected, total and permanent disabilities to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the armed forces are entitled to such travel. This is a bill we are being asked to support.

I am including a web site that you can track how your legislators are voting.

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/votes>

It is a very important election year. Remember, your vote always counts and so does your voice.

**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 - 08/02

Auxiliary Final Business Session - 08/03

Introduction of National Officers - 08/03

