

DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News



3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076 | January 2017



"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day."

-Edith Lovejoy Pierce

Inside this issue:

From the desk of the National Commander	1
Wreath Laying	1
Community Service	2
History	2
VAVS	3
Junior Activities	3
New Recruitment Point System	4
Membership	4
Reminders	4
Scholarship	5
National Commander Testimonial	5
Flag Retirement Ceremonies	6

From the desk of National Commander Frances Costa

We have lost units due to lack of activity of members. I am asking that officers encourage participation of the younger generation of members. Remember, as we all know, change is difficult but we must give our newer, younger members the opportunity to see if their suggestions and ideas are doable by giving them a try. We need active units to meet this goal. There are many officers who would truly love to step back and pass the torch to other committed members. If you are reluctant to step forward because of a lack of understanding of what an officer's position requires, you can ask a present officer or ask for a copy of the unit standing rules (if they have them) or purchase a copy of the DAVA National Constitution and Bylaws from national headquarters. Another tool is the Auxiliary Manual that you can order or print for yourself from the auxiliary site.

There are many reasons why members may not become active, but maybe a little knowledge will give them the confidence to step forward.

Another thing that comes to mind is if you question or disagree with an issue or project, please discuss it at the meetings. The person with whom you disagree may not realize how you feel if you do not speak up about it or offer suggestions. We don't always need to just go along with the status quo. Many times the same person does all the work or planning, not because they want to, but because no one else will come forward and they just expect that it will be taken care of. When things are discussed at the meeting and not after the fact (following meetings and in a subsequent phone call among others) issues mushroom and grow and by the time it gets back to the person intended for, it is generally completely blown out of proportion and hard feelings arise. Some members use this as an excuse for not participating. But that brings us back to our purpose which speaks to loyalty, devotion, and comradeship among members. The key point is to respect each member's opinions and ideas.

Due to the aging process we all need to make room for other members to step up to the plate to strengthen the DAV Auxiliary. Give them the chance and be there to assist them and guide them as they strengthen their knowledge of the DAV Auxiliary. That way, you will know that the legacy will continue. We are all volunteers and true volunteers do what they do, not for personal accolades and benefit, but because we believe in the purpose of which this organization was founded. We need the passion in our hearts to move our hands forward to get the job done and meet our mission of service to disabled veterans and their families.



National Commander Frances Costa to Lay Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns

National Commander Frances Costa will represent the DAV Auxiliary in a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery on Saturday, February 25, 2017, at 9:15 a.m. If you are planning to attend the DAV Legislative Mid-Winter Conference or will be in the area on that date, you are welcome to attend.

Community Service by Dorothy Reese, National Community Service Chairman

What a BUSY time of year.

With the Holidays behind us, we can now get back to business as usual. I hope that all the planning went well and that you thought of your neighbors and families in need.

We need to remember that Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day are not the only times we need to do community service. We should continually remember that there are families in need all year long. We seem to forget that giving only certain times of the year is not enough. You will always find some veteran and their family in need. They often need food and household supplies and are too proud to ask for help.

You can usually hear of a family or two that are having problems. Sometimes the children don't get shoes, coats, hats, etc., for Christmas and the winters are very long. Even here in the South it gets cold.

Our volunteering is not a seasonal time of the year, but all year round. Imagine when we were children what we went through and what needs were never met by our parents. Nowadays, it is the grandparents who tend to the needs of these children. Being on a fixed income really is hard to accommodate every child with the basics of life. Be sure that you tell them often that you love them all and want to do what is best for them.

We can't tell them that when we were young that we walked to school with no socks and holes in our shoes in three feet of snow or if it was raining continually. We tell them stories of our childhood and wouldn't it be nice if they could say they had a wonderful childhood. I know that it is nearly impossible, BUT just giving what you can will make the difference in the community knowing that they can help others.

So, remember that community service is a year-long endeavor and you will see the blessings come out of serving.

History by Margaret Snelling, National History Chairman



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL STATE HISTORY CHAIRMEN!!!

Accepting the position as State History Chairman is very challenging, but it can also be a lot of fun. I look forward to hearing from each of you with pictures, questions, suggestions, and materials that you want to share.

I see in my crystal ball that all of the State Department History Chairmen have ordered their history book from the DAV store and are already planning the layout (per General Instructions for Compiling State Department History Books). **WAY TO GO!**

Remember to keep your materials in a clean working area as you complete each section and when you are ready to assemble your book it will be a cinch.

Now is the time to start collecting pictures of State Officers, State Chairmen, VAVS Representatives, Unit Commanders, and anyone holding a National Office or Chairmanship this year. Make it clear that you will need individual pictures. There is much for your State Commander to report on with the upcoming holidays.

Above all, remember to send me lots of pictures when National Commander Fran visits your state.

The holidays are times of tradition and times of celebration. They are the perfect opportunity to reach out to friends, neighbors, and loved ones. As Americans we have so much to be thankful for, so let's share our good fortune with the families of the latest disasters; the families of those who have given their all to keep us free; the families of those who are in harm's way, and the families of those who are now our veterans.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND GOD BLESS US ALL!

VAVS by Nancy Mooney, National VAVS Chairman

Let me begin by hoping everyone enjoyed a happy holiday season! We are a country of diverse cultural backgrounds, religions, customs, and rituals observed at this time of the year. How exciting is it to recognize these differences in our country and have the freedom to express them in a common field of celebration at this time of year! That means more opportunity to share these traditions at your local VA Medical Center. Regardless of the season, adopt a ward and share what your family's holiday traditions are. These traditions may take on the form of making a homemade card, decoration, ornament or a special holiday food item. Provide the materials, help make these items and, if there is a history of your family's tradition, share this story with our veterans. Perhaps it may be one they have enjoyed with their family before becoming a patient at the VAMC.

Please be aware that there are still many homeless veterans in many communities across the country who can use our assistance during these cold months. Our VA Medical System serves a large population of homeless veterans and has outreach programs that can use our support in this area of service to our veterans. A clothing drive for warm coats, socks, boots, blankets, and sleeping bags can bring great comfort to these veterans if they do not have shelter available to them.

Holiday seasons come and go, but our veterans remain in our VA Medical Facilities after the celebrations are ended. Please continue to honor them by volunteering at your local VA Medical Center, providing support to their needs and enjoyment while being a patient in a VA Medical Center. A perfect time to be a part of a special event is to take part in the Salute to Veterans activities in mid-winter.

If you have not sent in your Annual Joint Review, please do so now. Many VA Facilities have gone to computer generated forms for donation and event sheets. Please be sure to fill out these forms so that the DAVA will be recognized for all the volunteer work that is performed for our veterans throughout the VA Centers.

Thank you to all our dedicated DAVA members who so generously give of their time to make a difference in the lives of our veterans while they are patients in a VA Medical Center. Commander Frances Costa's theme this year is, "Hands full of heart are DAV/DAVA helping hands. It's time for some heart work." Let's put her theme to work at our VA Medical Centers!

Junior Activities by Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, National Junior Activities Chairman

During the holiday season, it was easy to keep our focus on the young people in our lives. Our challenge is to engage our Juniors in everyday life with the same joy and intensity as we do throughout the holidays. Let's examine some lessons from the holidays that we might use throughout the year:

- **Bring Santa Claus and the Maccabees to Life:** Both Christmas and Hanukkah have storylines that have adult topic themes. Yet, we are able to pull out stories and create characters that engage children of all ages. Auxiliary members can do the same by emphasizing the heroism of our veterans and talking about the sacrifices they made in very matter of fact terms.
- **Bake Cookies:** It is easy for many of us to get caught up in planning auxiliary activities. Although it is possible to involve juniors in this process, at some point we must stop shopping for ingredients and actually start making cookie dough! Actively engage young people in community service; hands-on experiences create life-long memories.
- **Join Together:** Even the least social amongst us extend and accept invitations to holiday meals and parties. These occasions are usually festive and inclusive. Everyone wants to belong! Find and/or create events throughout the year to celebrate as a community. Juniors and their families love to join in on having fun!
- **Spread the Joy:** How often do we greet a stranger by saying "Happy Holidays" or "Merry Christmas?" If we can do that with relative ease, we can also invite juniors and their families whom we may not even know to "Join In."

During this New Year, let's not forget that the spirit of the holidays can last all year long. In doing so, our juniors and their families will find a home in the DAV Auxiliary. Keep these suggestions in mind as you lay out your holiday plans for Junior Activities in 2017.

New DAV Auxiliary Point System for Membership Recruitment

DAV Auxiliary recruiters are now able to earn points for merchandise from the DAV store based on the type of application the prospective member completes.

- Sponsors are now awarded one point when using a paper application to recruit a new part-life member. An additional point will be awarded when the part-life member converts to a fully-paid life membership. If the new member is recruited as a fully-paid life member from the beginning, two points are immediately awarded to the sponsor.
- Recruiters of new part-life members using our online application, which requires a credit card payment, shall earn one point. Two additional points will be awarded when the part-life member converts to a fully-paid life membership. If the member is recruited as a fully-paid life member from the beginning, three points are automatically awarded.

Members who are recruited utilizing the online application have a much greater proclivity toward purchasing a full-life membership. Also, those who are recruited as part-life members have a much higher conversion rate using the online resources, especially when electing the automatic monthly credit card payments.

To use the online application, please visit www.davauxiliary.org and click "Join DAV Auxiliary." We hope this new incentive will not only assist our members in their recruitment efforts, but encourage potential members to see the benefit of payment flexibility and convenience.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact national headquarters.

Membership by Ellen Timmerman, National Membership Chairman

We have completed the first "Sprint" for membership. During this "Membership Sprint" there were 435 new Part-life/Life members signed up. The name that is drawn for the \$100 for this "Membership Sprint" is **Deborah Bellante** from Arkansas unit #3. Congratulations!!

I hope you are taking advantage of all the information and forms that have been available for your use to encourage membership. All these items can be found on the Auxiliary website and they are for everyone to use (you don't even need to sign in).

The next "Membership Sprint" starts on January 1, 2017, and ends is March 31, 2017. The same rules apply in all of the "sprints." Sign up a paying life member and your name will be put in a drawing for \$100. This does not include junior members or complimentary members.

Please remember how important membership is. Not only do we get someone else to work with us and help with our different projects, we might get some new ideas that will make our units better.

Keep up the good work! God bless each of you for all that you do to help our Veterans and their families. God Bless America.

Reminders:

Indebtedness Statements—If your unit's membership distribution has not satisfied the \$25 national mandate, an indebtedness statement will be included in the unit's quarter-end mailing. We recommend that indebted units submit a check to cover the outstanding indebtedness to clear the unit for voting at state and national conventions.

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 Fund by LeeAnn Karg, Scholarship Committee Chairman

2017 is now upon us. Soon it will be spring. I know, winter has just arrived, but time flies by and before you know it, winter will be gone. It is time to be thinking of what you want to do with your life. Education could be the answer for you. Every fully paid life member of the DAV Auxiliary is eligible to apply for a scholarship. The application can be found online at <http://auxiliary.dav.org>. The application is due to National DAV Auxiliary before March 10, 2017. Print out that scholarship form or request one from National DAV Auxiliary now!

Read through it carefully to make sure that you fill it out completely and accurately. Pay close attention to the point value for each question to ensure that you are getting the most points as this is how they are judged. Make sure that everything that is required to be attached is there. Do not put off until tomorrow what you can do today.

The Auxiliary established this opportunity for all of its members to ensure that they can be the best that they can be. Secure your future with the education that will give that future.

- Auxiliary Life Membership paid in full
- Full-time or part-time student as well as unique requests
- Up to, but no more than, \$1,500 per year for up to 5 years
- One per school year
- Must be at least a senior in high school
- No maximum age limit
- Full-time: Maintain a minimum of 12 credits per semester
- Part-time: Maintain a minimum of 6 credits per semester
- Unique request students: less than 6 credits per semester will be considered for \$750 scholarships
- Maintain a 2.5 GPA to receive maximum amount
- Must apply each year
- No money may be sent to schools outside the United States
- You must use the current application form

Reach for the stars and get that education you have always wanted. The DAV Auxiliary can help.

National Commander Frances Costa's Testimonial

The DAV Auxiliary National Commander's testimonial dinner will be held Sunday, April 9, 2017, at Lombardo's in Randolph, Massachusetts.

A block of rooms are available April 7-9, 2017, at the Comfort Inn, 1374 North Main Street, Randolph. The room rate is \$149 per night, plus applicable taxes, and reservations can be made by calling 781.961.1000 and requesting the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Testimonial room block. The deadline for room reservations is March 7.

Shuttle service to the hotel is available through the local subway system at the Quincy Adams T-station, Braintree Logan Express and Braintree Plaza.

On Saturday, April 8, a tour is scheduled of historical sites in Boston. The bus will depart the hotel at 9:30 a.m., and include stops at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, Quincy Market, and Faneuil Hall.

Beginning at 6:00 p.m. on April 8, heavy snacks and a cash bar will be available at Braintree Chapter 29, located at 788 Liberty Street in Braintree, Massachusetts. All guests are invited to attend.

The April 9 testimonial for Commander Costa will begin with a cocktail hour at 1:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 2:00 p.m. The dinner cost is \$50 per person, and includes the choice of a steak and chicken kabob combination plate or vegetarian lasagna. Please send checks, along with dinner choice, made payable to Frances Costa, 20 Adamsdale Road, North Attleboro, MA 02760.

Follow us on Social Media for news and information on the DAV Auxiliary.



Congratulations to the following State Departments for achieving 2016-2017 quota!

Louisiana
Virginia

New Auxiliary Unit

Thomas W. Bazemore #19
Sanford, Maine
Chartered
November 14, 2016

Earn a DAV Store Gift Certificate



Recruit 25 new, paid members and receive a \$25 gift certificate to use at the DAV Store!

Earn a Recruitment Certificate



Recruit ten new, paid members and receive a certificate of appreciation!

DAV AUXILIARY

Frances Costa,
National Commander

3725 Alexandra Pike
Cold Spring, KY 41076

Patricia Kemper,
National Adjutant

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



**“Hands full of heart are DAV/DAVA helping hands.
It’s time for some heart work!”**

Flag Retirement Ceremonies Honorable ~ Solemn ~ Respectful

During a beautifully conducted flag retirement ceremony on Saturday, November 12, 2016, members of DAV and DAV Auxiliary Manatee County #18 of Bradenton, Fla., gathered to witness the respectful retirement of worn and tattered American flags.

In all, more than ten bags of flags, many from members of the community, were properly destroyed. The event was organized by Auxiliary Americanism Chairperson Nita Slavinsky, Unit #18 Commander Amie Raber, and Chapter #18 Commander Walt Cyr.



At sunset on Sunday, October 15, 2016, members of DAV Auxiliary Phoenix Unit #1 and Star Unit #24 joined together for a special flag retirement observance. Cortez High School NJROTC participants aided with the disposition of flags that had been collected from the community and VA patients. In conjunction with Fire Fighter Appreciation week, organizers Sharon Linton, Unit #1 Commander, and Cathy Price, Unit #1 Adjutant, arranged the event held at the Glendale, Az., Fire Station #157 which was followed by a potluck appreciation dinner for the fire fighters and DAV chapter members.

According to the US Flag Code, “The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem of display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.”

This could be a special project for your unit and chapter to consider.

