

DAV Auxiliary

Headquarters News



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

PRESIDENTS'
DAY

February 20, 2017

These State Departments
have achieved 2016-2017
membership quota!

Congratulations!

Indiana
Louisiana
Ohio
Virginia

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From the desk of National Commander Frances Costa...

I would like to begin this article by acknowledging the privilege that I had to attend the Presidential Inaugural events representing the DAV Auxiliary. It was truly an honor and an experience that one only has the opportunity in a lifetime.

I recently received an email through DAVA national headquarters requesting some input on the subject of Distribution of VA Disability Compensation after the demise of the disabled veteran. Sadly many spouses of a disabled veteran are under the assumption that the compensation will continue to be paid to them upon the death of their spouse. There are many VA criteria that have to be met for the spouse to continue to receive compensation through death benefits. Much depends on the percentage of disability, cause of death being associated with the service-connected disability, income, etc.

My first impulse is to suggest to anyone requesting any of the forms of death benefits is to make immediate contact with one of the DAV National Service Offices (NSO) in your locality. You can find their location, if you are not familiar with them, by going onto the DAV website: DAV.org and locating your closest national service office and contact numbers. Since the rules and/or laws continually change, they should be your first contact since our NSO's are consistently updated on any changes regarding eligibility benefits. There are so many variables that no two claims will be the same.

Thank you for asking this question and I hope to see some dialogue in an upcoming magazine that these individuals will see. I am aware that our newsletter does not reach all members of the DAV Auxiliary and especially those that may not be members but continue to receive the magazine through their spouse.

Thank you to all of our members whose hands continue to work hard for our veterans and their families because of the passion they have in their hearts.

Membership by Ellen Timmerman, National Membership Chairman

Membership is the life blood of any organization and without new members there are usually very few new ideas to help an organization to move forward.

We have now started on the second "Membership Sprint" which will end on March 31, 2017. For every paying life member you sign up your name will go into a drawing for \$100. I hope our first winner is enjoying her \$100 and also continuing to sign up new members.

There are so many ways to get the information out about the DAV Auxiliary and what we do; don't be afraid to talk to people. Once you mention that you are part of the DAV Auxiliary it opens a lot of doors for discussion. Tell people what your unit does for veterans and their families, and also what you do for community service. I'll bet they will be surprised. As an Auxiliary member there are so many ways to introduce yourself but I've found one of the easiest is to wear my DAV Auxiliary shirt. **You deserve to be proud of what we do as Auxiliary Members.**

Good luck, have fun, and be good to each other.

Chaplains Corner by Aura-Lee Nicodemus, National Chaplain

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you.” Deuteronomy 31:6



We are beginning a New Year and there are a lot of changes before us as well as many behind us.

We have a New President, many changes in the Leadership of our Nation, and we will soon be electing the new leaders of our organization. Facing these changes requires great interpersonal strength and courage. It is more important than ever that we stay focused on building better lives for Disabled Veterans and their family members. We ended 2016 with many great accomplishments that will improve the lives of our Veterans, but there is far more work to do. It is essential that during this time of great change that we work to care for ourselves as well as those we serve, as change does create stress; some good and some that is more challenging. It is essential that we assure that we fulfill our own needs so that we can face the challenges that are before us.

Are you taking time to get plenty of sleep? This is very important as we recover from the Holidays. Are you eating healthy food? Are you finding time to refill your spirit with a brisk walk, peaceful meditation or just some time alone relaxing or pursuing your individual religious faith? Have you scheduled that annual medical checkup? Are you taking time to regularly exercise? As we begin the work for the upcoming changes, we need you strong physically and spiritually so that the next year can be a year of success!! You are given permission to care for you as that is the first step in being able to serve and care for others.

If you need some support as we experience the upcoming changes be sure to reach out to fellow members, your clergy or your personal physician. Change can be stressful and we need you at your best. You deserve to take good care of you.

Unit Elections

It's that time of year when most units hold their annual elections. Regardless of when elections are held for your unit, here are a few important reminders:

- Notify all members of officer nomination/election no less than ten days in advance. Be sure this notification includes date, time, and meeting location. This communication can be done by phone call, e-mail, newsletter, postcard, etc., and at any time in the unit's fiscal year, as long as it is at least ten days prior.
- 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. *Every member 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. Remember, the audit committee may not include the unit commander, senior vice commander, junior vice commander (when signing warrants/vouchers/check requests), adjutant, and treasurer. If the total gross income of the unit exceeds \$100,000, the unit financial records must be reviewed and verified by an Independent Certified Public Accountant.
- 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.](#)



ARE YOU
ELECTION READY?

Legislative

by Diane Franz, National Legislative Chairman

Now that the elections are completed, it is time again to focus on the issues and bills concerning our Veterans and their families. Not only on the federal level, but check to see what bills may be pending within your state and local legislative bodies.

I cannot emphasize enough to sign up for the Commander's Action Network (CAN) on the DAV website. All the important bills on the federal level are listed and the position that the DAV holds on them. You will also receive notifications from the DAV National Commander on immediate action needed on a particular bill or if a bill has passed or been defeated. Another good source of information is in the DAV Magazine. We must support the DAV on getting the legislation needed for our Veterans. And don't forget the "Thank You" letters/phone calls/emails to your legislators for their support. Those two little words go a long way with them to show you care what they do in Washington.

May we start off the New Year with continued support for our Veterans. **MAKE YOUR VOICES HEARD!**

2017 DAV/A National Convention

The 2017 DAV/A National Convention will be held July 29—August 1, 2017, at the Hilton New Orleans, Riverside, in New Orleans, Louisiana. Room rates are \$130 per night, single/double occupancy, plus applicable taxes.

The tentative agenda for the event is as follows:

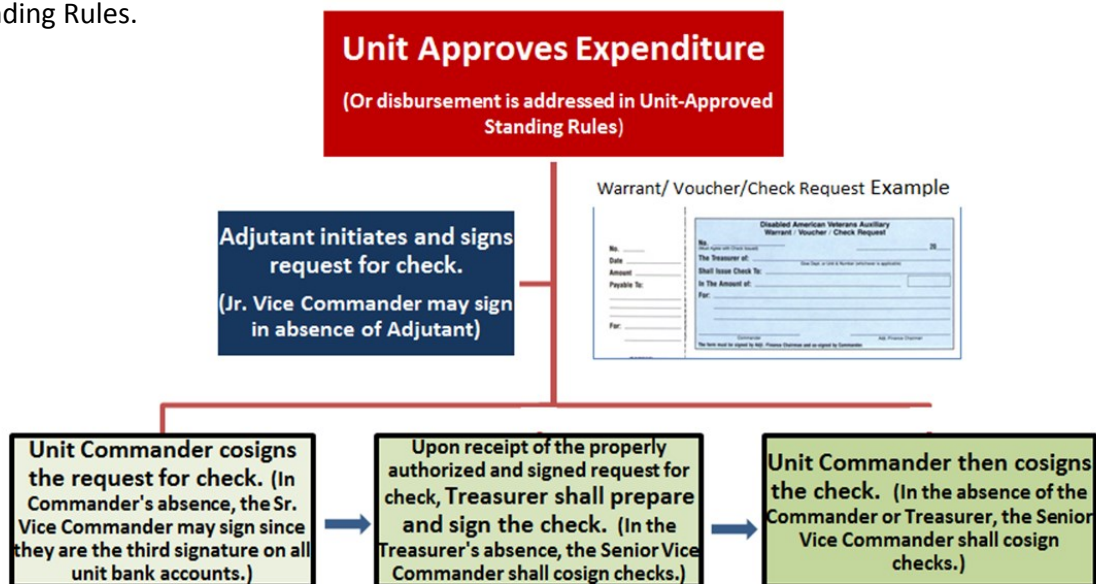
- ⇒ NEC Meeting - July 27 (P.M.)
- ⇒ District Meetings - July 28 (A.M.)
- ⇒ Joint Opening Session - July 29
- ⇒ Auxiliary First Business Session - July 29
- ⇒ Auxiliary Committee Meetings - July 30
- ⇒ Auxiliary Second Business Session - July 31
- ⇒ Forget-Me-Not Luncheon - July 31
- ⇒ Auxiliary Final Business Session - August 1
- ⇒ Introduction of National Officers - August 1

The yellow delegate form has been mailed to all unit adjutants. Units are entitled to one delegate and one alternate for its charter, and one delegate and one alternate for each 25 life members or major fraction thereof. *For example, if a unit has 78 senior members, they will be entitled to four delegates and four alternates; one for the charter, and three for every 25 members or major fraction thereof.* Delegates/alternates are **not** required to be elected; however, should the unit have more delegates/alternates attending than delegate votes available, an election **will be required** prior to submitting the form to national headquarters.

If your unit has questions or concerns regarding this process, please contact national headquarters.

Warrants/Vouchers/Check Requests

The national bylaws provide for the proper procedure when issuing checks from unit accounts. Unit funds may only be expended upon approval of unit members at a regular business meeting unless otherwise specified in the Unit Standing Rules.



CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS ARE NOT TO BE USED

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



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

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.

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., 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 dinner cost is \$50 per person, and includes the choice of a steak and chicken kabob combination plate or vegetarian lasagna. **When sending checks, please include if you will attend the bus trip and/or reception on Saturday, as well as dinner choice.** Checks can be made payable to Frances Costa, and sent to 20 Adamsdale Road, North Attleboro, MA 02760.

Earn a Recruitment Certificate



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

Earn a DAV Store Gift Certificate



Recruit 25 new, paid members and receive a \$30 gift certificate to use at the DAV Store!

Recruitment

Congratulations to Kimberly Taylor, OH, who received a \$30 DAV Store Gift Certificate for recruiting 25 new, paid members.

Save the Date

**DAV Auxiliary 2017
National Fall Conference**
Lexington Embassy Suites
September 28-30, 2017
Phone: 859.455.5000
\$124 Single/Double
\$134 Triple/Quad

Rates include free parking and complimentary breakfast. All rooms are mini-suites with a bedroom and sitting area.

Reminders~

- ♦ When sending in membership applications, please make sure the application is filled out completely, and is legible. Also, a date of birth is required for processing on all applications.
- ♦ Membership applications and brochures are available at no charge. Please contact national headquarters to place an order. The applications are available in single form or in triplicate books of 25.
- ♦ When your unit is filling out the annual officer report, please be sure to include **current** information on all officers, as well as meeting information. Current information includes address, phone number, and email address, if applicable. The meeting time, place and location should also be completed, even if there are no changes.
- ♦ Remember, it is the Adjutant’s responsibility to share all mail. It is not the Adjutant’s personal mail.
- ♦ National headquarters will be closed on Monday, February 20, 2017, in observance of Presidents’ Day.