

DAV Auxiliary

Headquarters News



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



April 16, 2017

These State Departments have achieved 2016-2017 membership quota!

Congratulations!
Indiana
Louisiana
Massachusetts
New Jersey
North Carolina
Ohio
Tennessee
Virginia

From the desk of National Commander Frances Costa...

Spring has finally arrived (in the calendar-sense anyway) and with spring comes many Unit elections as well as State Conventions. I know I am being redundant, but be sure that when holding elections you elect officers that are committed to serving their position and not just to put someone in a position. We need to increase our membership and activism within our units. Remember, if you don't ask, you won't sign anyone up. We need to have better communication between the units and chapters, as well as departments.



Keep in mind that bad publicity stays present where good publicity is soon forgotten and we, as members of the DAV and Auxiliary, MUST be good stewards of our organization. We are the first line of recruitment and bad publicity is not good for our reputation. How the public perceives bickering and infighting is not going to enhance our organization. Be friendly and work with one another. If you feel you need assistance, contact your State Commander and ask if someone could come out to a meeting and explain reports, how to run a proper meeting, etc.

One who injures the reputation of another by false information about another person will be liable for it. Also if someone gives private facts about another, even if true, you could and will be liable. Members will protect themselves and the DAVA from any liability – and continue DAVA's tradition of service – if they put a little extra effort, thought, and compassion into each and every action taken or any decisions made. We must be accountable and transparent in everything we do when acting within or representing the DAV Auxiliary

I would like to thank the many Auxiliary members, units, and state departments who sent cards of condolence on the recent passing of my mother. It has meant so much to me and my family to see how many DAV Auxiliary members really care about each other.

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Monthly and Quarterly Mailings

Communication is the key to a successful unit and state department. What better way to stay up-to-date on all DAV Auxiliary news than by sharing the Headquarters News. This publication is once again being sent on a monthly basis to unit and state Adjutants, and is available on social media and our website.

All other items, including the activity listing and distribution report, will continue to be sent on a quarterly basis in January, April, July, and October. Since these mailings will be larger in size, unit and state Adjutants should open them and review the information for important deadlines or requests.

If you have any questions please contact national headquarters.

Legislative by Diane Franz, National Legislative Chairman

When was the last time you logged on to the DAV website and checked the Advocate tab to read what issues we need to support? The Military and Veterans Caregiver Services Improvement Act Expansion needs your letter writing to finally get this benefit for ALL service members that have paid an extreme price serving their country and protecting freedom. This bill not only benefits our Veterans, but all who care for them. Please write to your representatives to expand this bill to include those who served prior to September 11, 2001. The Commander's Action Network (CAN) makes it so easy to **make your voice heard** in Washington. The bill numbers are S.591 and H.R. 1472. And don't forget to thank your representatives for their support. If you are not already signed up for CAN, do so now. If legislation needs your immediate action, you will get an email from the DAV and Auxiliary National Commander for your help. Please go to the Advocate site to give your voice to the other issue that are pending. And don't forget about state and local issues concerning benefits for our veterans.

It's also that time of year to prepare your unit's Legislative Report. Make sure your unit's name is correct and the form is signed. This year, there is space for legislation with no bill number. This is one of our programs that even housebound members can participate. Get them involved in writing or emailing their representatives by showing them how to access the CAN network on a computer. If you did not give them a copy of the form so they can keep track of the bills, do so next year. Good luck in your state conventions. Have a wonderful spring and summer, and see you in New Orleans!

Community Service by Dorothy Reese, National Community Service Chairman

Well, here we are and spring has sprung. By watching the news, the weather was not so good for some.

With spring here, I have been in a cleaning mode. I cleaned our closets, drawers, and looked for anything I hadn't used for a long time. Clothing was donated to the ABBA House for women who have been abused or have a chemical dependency. They are there to stay clean and away from abusive people. They are allowed to have their children but no men can live there. The management assists in finding jobs for them and they stay until they graduate the program. They need professional clothing to go for job interviews, etc. I also cleaned out my pantry of canned goods, flour, and anything that we really didn't like.

These are a few of the things that can help others. I also purchased items such as toilet paper, paper towels, and personal care items. Many are the same as we take to the Dublin VA.

Then I turned my attention to the garage. You know—that's the extra storage room. We had three good vacuums, extra cleaning supplies, and Swiffer's for cleaning the floor. I found another full set of dishes, towels, and silver wear. These are things we didn't know we had.

Just think of what you could donate to someone who has lost their home by fire, flooding, or hurricane damage. We all have things around that we say some day we are going to need or use. Once you start cleaning or opening old boxes, what a surprise you will have, and then you can find ways to give them to someone.

Veterans Crisis Line

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs offers a confidential resource for veterans and their families/friends who may be in crisis and need immediate support.

Call: 800.273.8255, press #1

Online chat: www.veteranscrisisline.net/chat

Text: 838255

Information: www.veteranscrisisline.net

This free service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Have a story to share?

Does your Auxiliary unit or State Department have a project or story they would like to share? E-mail us at dava@dav.org or mail your stories to our national headquarters office. Don't forget to include pictures and the names of those who participated!



Membership by Ellen Timmerman, National Membership Chairman



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

We have now completed the second "Sprint" for membership. During this "Membership Sprint" there were 416 new Part-life/Life members signed up. The name that was drawn for the \$100 for this "Membership Sprint" is Shirley McIntire from North Carolina unit #5. CONGRATULATIONS!!

Our final "membership sprint" has started and will continue through June 30, 2017. Help us cross that goal line!

As we bring in new members please be sure to welcome them and take the time to explain some of the things your unit does for our veterans and their families as well as what you do in the community. If you do this, they will be better prepared to help and join in. We all want to feel like we are valuable and truly an asset to our units.

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!

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 the following members for recruiting 25 new, paid members and receiving a \$30 gift certificate to the DAV Store!

Nikki Cochran, OH #13
Amie Raber, FL #18

Understanding Fund Raising Donations

Unit financial reports are currently being processed and reviewed by national staff. We have an obligation to our generous donors to assure their donations will be used to support DAV and/or DAV Auxiliary programs. There are other very worthy non-profit organizations; however, as a non-profit veterans' service organization, we must be conscientious stewards of the funds raised by and donated to **our** organization. The rationale being—had the donor wanted their donation to go to another non-profit group, they would have appropriated their funds to that cause. Instead, they chose our organization, making it the responsibility of our members, units, and state departments to ensure the funds collected during fund raising efforts are expended as the donor intended.

We are very proud of our members who are dedicated to assisting veterans and their families, but today many organizations are not following through on the promises they are making to donors. Use caution with unit funds. Do your research. If in doubt about an organization, contact them first for full expenditure disclosure of the funds received. This will protect not only your unit, but will ensure that the monies raised are being used for programs that benefit DAV and DAV Auxiliary, as we have promised to those who have donated. It bears repeating that if funds are raised by the DAV Auxiliary unit, the donors themselves are of the belief that their funds will directly assist veterans and their families.

Remember that DAV and DAV Auxiliary have many programs that work directly to benefit veterans, their dependents, and survivors. These programs include the Service/Support program, the Education Scholarship Program, the Winter Sports Clinic, and the DAV Transportation program. Income from approved fund raising activities shall be used to support programs and activities sponsored by DAV and DAV Auxiliary, as long as such programs and activities provide a direct and substantial benefit to disabled veterans, their dependents, and survivors (DAV Regulations, Section 5).

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact national headquarters at 877.426.2838, option 5. We thank all members and units for their hard work and dedication to supporting the mission of the DAV Auxiliary.

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



DAV AUXILIARY

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

New Auxiliary Units

Montgomery County #78
Willis, Texas
Chartered January 6, 2017

Harry L. Axline Jr. #22
Nolanville, Texas
Chartered March 1, 2017

Gallatin Unit #95
Gallatin, Tennessee
Chartered March 7, 2017

2017 DAV 5K Series

San Antonio, Texas
Saturday, November 4th

Tulsa, Oklahoma
Saturday, November 4th

Newport News, Virginia
Sunday, November 5th

Atlanta, Georgia
Saturday, November 11th

Boston, Massachusetts
Saturday, November 11th

Cincinnati, Ohio
Saturday, November 11th

Raleigh, North Carolina
Saturday, November 11th

www.dav5k.org

Reminders:

- **Delegate Listings**—Units should submit the yellow delegate listing for those selected/elected to attend National Convention in New Orleans. Even if a member is unsure if he/she will attend, add them as a delegate/alternate so that the member receives their delegate registration letter.
- **Date of Birth**—When submitting an application for membership, a date of birth must be provided. Applications received without a date of birth cannot be processed, and will cause a delay in a member being added to your unit.
- **Quota**—Units are no longer required to make quota by April 30 to be eligible for the Mae Holmes National Outstanding Unit award. Each unit is encouraged to complete this form so that the NEC for their district is able to complete their annual report to include those amazing works.
- **Memorial for Departed Members**—Many units hold a memorial each year to honor those who have departed. As a reminder, an example of a memorial is available in the Constitution and Bylaws on page U-30.
- **Installation of Unit Officers**—The Unit Commander and Unit Officers can be installed by an Auxiliary Past National Commander, an elected National Officer, the National Adjutant, the National Assistant Adjutant, an elected State Officer, a Past State Commander, or a past Unit Commander. The incoming Unit Commander selects the installing officer. The Auxiliary ritual must be used for installation.

National Chairmanship Application

Each year the newly elected DAV Auxiliary National Commander appoints chairmen for each of the DAV Auxiliary Programs. What is your favorite program? What information or skills can you provide to members about your favorite program?

If you are interested in a National Chairmanship, please contact National Headquarters for an application. Once completed, applications should be sent to DAV Auxiliary National Headquarters.

Dual Memberships

Any person who is eligible for membership in the DAV is also eligible for membership in the DAV Auxiliary. Any member in good standing and eligible for membership in both the parent organization and the DAV Auxiliary shall be eligible to vote, hold an elected or appointed office and/or chairmanship in the DAV Auxiliary when not holding an elected or appointed office and/or chairmanship in the DAV.