

# DAV Auxiliary

## Headquarters News



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

Congratulations to these State Departments for achieving 2016-2017 membership quota!

Alabama  
Arizona  
California  
Florida  
Georgia  
Hawaii  
Indiana  
Kentucky  
Louisiana  
Massachusetts  
Nevada  
New Jersey  
North Carolina  
Ohio  
Puerto Rico  
South Dakota  
Tennessee  
Virginia  
Wisconsin

### From the Desk of National Commander Frances Costa...

As this is my final article for Headquarters News, I wish to thank all of the many members that have supported me through this journey. Despite family illness, I have tried to give 100% to my commitment as DAV Auxiliary National Commander. There are a few things that I missed, but thank you for understanding.

I thank you for the HEART WORK that you have all performed this past year. I urge you to continue to increase our membership. It is the key to our survival as an organization. I ask that you continue to mentor new members who can step up and fill the rolls needed to keep our units and state departments moving forward. I ask also that you continue to participate in the DAV Legislative initiatives; without your help our legislators look at it as if the veteran and their family don't care. Many out there would like nothing better than to cut benefits to our disabled veterans and their families. They need to continue to hear from us. Comprehensive Caregiver benefit equity for veterans of all eras (not just Post 9/11) needs our continued attention.

"Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them." (President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Bill of Rights Day, November 27, 1941.) This is why we need to grow the DAVA, so that NO ONE FORGETS the sacrifice of our disabled veterans and their families.

Thank you for all that you do to enhance the lives of disabled veterans and their families. God bless all of you and may God bless America.



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### Membership by Ellen Timmerman, National Membership Chairman

Congratulations to Patricia Resler, North Dakota #1, for winning the final "Membership Sprint." We are starting a new year with a new quota, so let's get busy! We need to do our best to get all our members involved in unit activities so we don't burn out the ones who are always there working. We love what we do, but we all get tired.

#### MEMBERSHIP

##### LIFE LINE OF EVERY ORGANIZATION

Some members keep their organizations strong; others join just to belong

Some serve with pride; others are there just for the ride

Volunteers do their share; others sit back and just don't care

Meetings - some always show; others just never go

Some always pay their dues on time; others pay months behind

Some do their best to build and make; others never give, but always take

They never help their organization grow; some do, some don't

**WHICH ONE ARE YOU?**

## Community Service by Dorothy Reese, Community Service Chairman

It's hard to believe that this year is half over. Or maybe I should say, half beginning.

With the summer months upon us, we are ready for spring cleaning. Well, I did mine a couple months ago, but I think I need to do it again. I am trying to downsize some of the "stuff" that we have. Isn't it strange how things just grow out of nowhere?

I have a collection of New Orleans style masks in one of our bedrooms. My daughter-in-law said that I NEEDED to get rid of them. She doesn't realize how long I have collected them!! I guess I should box them up and, just to satisfy her, put them in the attic marked "RARE COLLECTION."

Now that I got that off my chest, do you have duplicates of kitchen items or what you think are no longer your treasures? Donate them to a place that rehabilitates others. Sheets and pillow cases, blankets, towels, pots and pans, dishes, etc., would mean a lot to a family that has either lost their home to fire or storm damage. Most of the time they need everything. Even if it means shipping to another state, what a blessing it would be for you to do that.

Thanks to all of you who go the extra mile.

## History by Margaret Snelling, National History Chairman

Happy Summer to everyone. Just a short reminder from your History Chairman—Remember this convention is for National Commander Fran, and I will be working on her history books long after. Please send me pictures from the National Convention in New Orleans, and pictures of your own state convention.

Pictures can be sent to me, Margaret Snelling, at 240 Branchview Drive NE, Apt. 216, Concord, NC 28025.



## Procedure for Disbanding an Auxiliary Unit

To possibly avoid any confusion on the part of the membership or national headquarters concerning the procedure units should follow when the membership itself has decided that due to inactivity, lack of interest, or the failure to hold the required amount of business meetings, they find their only recourse is to disband, we are asking that the following steps be observed.

- **First contact the state department.** The state department will then determine the appropriate method of communicating with the unit whether it be organizing a special meeting or a mail ballot to see if members are interested in reorganizing.
- Should the membership vote to disband and the state department is in concurrence, a letter requesting revocation must be submitted by the state department. **No action will be taken by national headquarters without this official notification.**
- Should a parent chapter disband, the Auxiliary unit may still retain its charter upon vote of the unit. National headquarters must be so advised.

All property, money\* and effects of the unit, with the exception of the charter, shall revert to the State Department to be held in trust for a period of 18 months. In the event the unit charter is not reissued within a period of 18 months, said property shall become the absolute property of the State Department.

**The original charter must be sent to National Headquarters for safekeeping.**

The purpose of the procedure listed above is to give each member notice beforehand that the charter will be revoked due to inactivity. This gives members the opportunity to renew interest and work together to save the unit charter.

\*Unit funds shall go to the state department when a unit disbands since it cannot be expended for any other activity, program, or to other organizations, including the parent chapter, without a vote of the unit body at a regular meeting with a quorum present.

## Exciting Changes to the National Fall Conference

Change often keeps things interesting and we are going to experience a few “last-minute” changes to the National Fall Conference.

- ♦ There will not be a banquet this year. Instead, join us for a casual and relaxing hospitality event on Friday evening, September 29, and prepare to be entertained by some local comedians. Light food offerings and drinks will be available and don't forget to charge up your cameras for the photo booth experience!
- ♦ The conference will conclude with a Saturday evening reception with light snacks, cash bar, and dancing with DJ entertainment.
- ♦ Conference registration fee will be \$50 to include the conference packet, the Friday evening hospitality, and the Saturday reception.



We look forward to seeing many returning and new attendees at the conference and hope that everyone enjoys the experience! Please share this update with any member who may be attending this year's conference since it differs from previously advertised information.

*Tentative Agenda Subject to Change*

9/27 - Early Bird Registration

9/28 - Registration

9/28 - Health and Wellness Fair

9/28 - NEC Meeting

9/28 - Business Session

9/29 - Registration

9/29 - Business Session

9/29 - Hospitality Night

9/30 - Business Session

9/30 - Reception for Registered Attendees



## Americanism by Lynn Helms Prosser, Americanism Chairman

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Americanism Chairman this year. I especially want to thank all the states and units that participated and submitted DAV Auxiliary Annual Reports. The reports are so important as they reflect the positive impact that our volunteers make in the daily lives of our veterans, active military personnel, their families and our communities. If you did not participate in the reports, NOW is a perfect time to get started for next year. Each year the National Chairmen compile totals of all their reported volunteer hours, miles and donated monies enabling the Auxiliary to measure our accomplishments and encourage growth and participation of our members.

As your Americanism Chairman, I want to emphasize the importance of our core values: Comradeship, Loyalty, Devotion, and Service. These principals help to define our “love for America” and the freedoms we enjoy through liberty and justice. As previously stated, our citizens are vested in the ideals set forth in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States of America.

We must continue to exhibit our patriotism by honoring and supporting America's heroes that have protected and defended our country in the face of danger. Encourage friends and family members to show their dedication and love by displaying the American Flag at their homes and businesses. I urge units to sponsor Americanism essay writing contests at your local schools and give students small flags and brochures explaining proper flag etiquette. It would also be a great way to promote youth involvement during patriotic events such as Memorial and Veterans Day Services, parades, etc.

I wish to thank all our members and supporters that continue to promote Americanism throughout our country. Always provide assistance to our severely ill and injured veterans and their caregivers. Remember, “Freedom is not free”!!! May God bless you, your family, our veterans, our troops and may we always stay “America Strong.”

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



## Sponsors Welcome!

Sponsorships are available for the 2017 National Fall Conference in Lexington, Kentucky. This is an opportunity for a business or organization to say thank you to disabled veterans and their families, and to provide a memorable Fall Conference experience for our deserving members.

Currently, these sponsorships are available:

- ⇒ Signature Sponsor (\$5,000)
- ⇒ Special Event Sponsor (\$2,500)
- ⇒ Sponsor Exhibitor (\$1,000)
- ⇒ In-Kind Sponsorships

For more information, please [click here](#). Any business or organization interested in a sponsorship opportunity should contact Auxiliary national headquarters.

## DAV AUXILIARY

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

## Legislative by Diane Franz, National Legislative Chairman

Proposal to Eliminate Individual Unemployability Rating at Age 62 from Commander David Riley Commander’s Action Network (CAN) release:

Over the past several weeks, DAV has received hundreds of inquiries from DAV members and other concerned parties regarding the proposal to eliminate the total disability rating based on Individual Unemployability (IU) benefits for veterans over the age of 62 contained in the President's fiscal year 2018 budget. Specifically, the proposal would terminate existing IU total disability ratings for veterans when they reach the minimum retirement age for Social Security purposes (age 62), or upon enactment of the proposal if the veteran is already in receipt of Social Security retirement benefits. In the May 24 House Veterans' Affairs Committee budget hearing, DAV expressed its strong opposition to this proposal. We are aware that the elimination of these benefits would affect not only the veteran's family income, but other critical ancillary benefits, such as dental coverage, Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance, the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the VA (CHAMPVA), commissary and exchange privileges, and the value of Social Security benefits. Additionally, this will impact access to some state benefits such as property tax exemptions for veteran homeowners, free vehicle registration and free access to state parks. **PLEASE CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND VOICE YOUR OPPOSITION TO THIS PROPOSAL.**

[Click here](#) for information on **H.R.1472 - Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act of 2017**. This bill still needs our letters, phone calls, and contacts. Let's get this passed this year!

There are many bills that still need our letters. Again, I ask you to sign up for the Commander’s Action Network (CAN). It is the easiest way to make our voices heard.

Thank you to all the units that made contacts this year to their elected officials. Good luck at the National Convention to the first place program awarded at state conventions.

## The Unsung Heroes Initiative

On June 19, 2017, DAV launched “The Unsung Heroes Initiative,” bringing awareness to the challenges and inequities facing America’s veteran caregivers. Every day, family caregivers selflessly make sacrifices for a disabled veteran’s recovery and rehabilitation. By making your voices heard, you can help Congress bridge the gap in benefits, and educate the American public on the struggles of a family caregiver. To find out more, please visit <https://www.unsungheroesinitiative.org/>.