

DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News



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



September American Flag Flying Holidays

Labor Day—September 4
Patriot Day—September 11
Constitution Day—Sept. 17
Gold Star Mother Day—Sept. 24

“America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand.” ~Harry S. Truman

Inside this issue:

Disaster Relief	1
National Fall Conference	1
Chaplain’s Corner	2
Education Scholarship	2
Upcoming Events	2
Legislative	3
A Moment of Thanks	3
Building Better Care-givers	3
VAVS Appointments	4
Reminders	4

Disaster Relief—Hurricane Harvey

Hurricane Harvey has had a gripping impact on thousands of residents in Texas and surrounding areas, and DAV’s Disaster Relief Team is on the ground in Texas right now providing relief supply kits and financial assistance to veteran families so they can obtain food, warm clothes, and shelter. The DAV Auxiliary is accepting donations from members, units, and state departments to support the DAV’s Disaster Relief efforts. Donations, made payable to DAV Auxiliary, can be sent to DAVA National Headquarters, 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076, earmarked “Disaster Relief.” Debit/credit card donations can also be made by calling 877-426-2838, option 5. Auxiliary donations will be forwarded to DAV’s Disaster Relief. The Auxiliary stands with DAV in aiding veterans and their families during their time of need.

2017 National Fall Conference

Don’t forget about the exciting changes to this year’s National Fall Conference:

- ◆ Thursday Night, September 28, is Patriotic Night! Wear your red, white and blue to the evening business session.
- ◆ There will not be a banquet. 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 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 attending.

Tentative Agenda Subject to Change

9/27 - Early Bird Registration 4—6pm

9/28 - Registration

9/28 - Health and Wellness Fair 1—4pm

9/28 - NEC Meeting

9/28 - Business Session 7:30pm

9/29 - Registration

9/29 - Business Session

9/29 - Hospitality Night

9/30 - Business Session

9/30 - Reception for Registered Attendees

National Commander Johniken’s theme for this year is “You’ve Got a Friend.” All friends are welcome at the conference!

Chaplain's Corner by Aura-Lee Nicodemus, National Chaplain



“A sweet friendship refreshes the soul,” Proverbs 27:9. One of the DAV Auxiliary core values is **comradeship**. This is one of the greatest gifts that we as DAV Auxiliary members share. As I sat before you as your Chaplain for the past year, as well as spent a great deal of time keeping in touch through social media, in-person visits, and phone calls, I am inspired about the friendship that each of you share with your fellow members in your local units, states, at National events, and extending into the community. I watch you reach out with a kind word, a gentle hug, and unparalleled generosity when one of our own is undergoing hardships, and to support the next generation as they begin the role of compassionate care providers. There is a great

bond that holds us together: love of disabled veterans, love of our country, and love of each other. Sitting at national convention I watched that amazing love in action—hugs for those who were grieving or sad, support for those who were having a tough time or just because we were renewing a friendship, and generous donations to our Service Support Fund and Education Scholarship Fund that will allow us to reach and confidentially help members in need. The friendships we develop have no borders; we support each other across the miles. We stand strong beside each other and for each other. The friendships and comradeship we develop are more precious than gold and will sustain us through our most challenging days. DAV Auxiliary members reach out daily showing our love, and making a difference in the lives of disabled veterans, their family members, and the community: for we do not just love one another—we put our love into action!

National Fall Conference is coming soon where we can treasure our old friendships and make many new friends from around the nation while sharing that great gift of comradeship and understanding. I hope each of you can be there to experience this love in action.

Education Scholarship by Frances Costa, National Education Scholarship Chairman

As Chairman of the DAV Auxiliary Scholarship Fund, I am starting early to encourage participation.

I know it is just the start to the academic year 2017-2018, but I would like to encourage all units and departments to enlist the potential recipients for 2018 scholarships to start working on the necessary requirements. Of course, the postmark deadline in March is priority, but the other very important factor is that the recipient **MUST** be a paid Life member of the DAV Auxiliary.

For those of you who may have high school seniors this year (or any students) please see that their Life membership is paid in full. It is never too early to start. Many of our juniors are now becoming full paid life members prior to age 18, which is beneficial to the recipient in applying for the scholarship. Start early with the school selections, but the actual school acceptance is not mandatory by the application deadline. It will be required at the time of selection for the scholarship before funds can be sent.

It is there for our members, no matter what your age is, but you must be a paid life member to apply.

It is disappointing when you have a high school or college age member who needs the extra help with their education to lose out because they miss the postmark deadline or are not life members. I hope to see many applications in March 2018.



2018 National Convention
July 13—17
Grand Sierra Resort and Casino
Reno, Nevada
\$84 GSR Basic Single/Double
\$104 Summit Room Single/Double
plus applicable taxes and fees
Reservations:
775-789-2000
800-648-5080
mention DAV for reduced rate

2018 National Fall Conference
September 27—29
Lexington Embassy Suites
Lexington, Kentucky
\$124 Single/Double
\$134 Triple/Quad
plus applicable taxes and fees
Reservations:
859-445-5000
1-800-EMBASSY
mention DAVA for reduced rate

Legislative by Lynn Helms Prosser, National Legislative Chairman

Our DAV and DAV Auxiliary National Convention in New Orleans was packed full of excitement, educational seminars, productive business sessions, great fellowship and “historic” elections. Congratulations to DAV National Commander Delphine Metcalf-Foster and DAV Auxiliary National Commander William Craig Johniken. Convention delegates also elected a group of amazing and dedicated National Officers, and with the support of our strong membership and national staff we are destined to have a productive, successful year. I am honored and excited to serve the DAV Auxiliary as 2nd Junior Vice Commander and Legislative Chairman.

We must never forget the sacrifices made by our brave men and women; past, present and future. They put everything on the line in the defense of America’s freedom. Our members’ voices must be heard by our political leaders and they must be kept informed of the massive challenges our veterans face when they transition back to civilian life.

As members of the DAV Auxiliary, your involvement will increase the effectiveness in advocating for ill and injured veterans, their families, and survivors. We must join the DAV and support their legislative grassroots campaign. It is imperative to strengthen advocacy efforts concerning the reform of the VA’s health care system to ensure it is in the best interest of veterans, protect existing benefits and develop new benefits to improve medical care and quality of living. We are all responsible to help ensure that our government fulfills its promises to our nation’s veterans and their families.

As your Legislative Chairman, I am encouraging that you sign up for DAV-CAN—Commander’s Action Network at www.dav.org/can. Once there click “Sign Up to Receive Alerts!” Follow up with a “sign up” campaign in your unit and chapter. Let your voice be heard!!!

From my home to yours, may God Bless You, our veterans, our troops, especially those serving in harm’s way and may God keep us “America Strong.”

A Moment of Thanks from Frances Costa, Immediate Past National Commander

I wish to thank each and every one of you who made my year a connection of love, passion, and caring for our veterans and their families. Caring hearts create productive hands for sure. You have all certainly proven that.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart also for the caring words of condolence in February and July on the passing of my parents. They were home where they wanted to be and I could not have continued my duties as national commander without the assistance of my siblings who covered and exchanged schedules with me to accommodate some of my travel. I apologize to Nebraska, Iowa, and Pennsylvania for not being able to attend your state conventions. Thank you for understanding.

Thank you and congratulations to all the Junior pages at the National Convention in New Orleans. You all did a wonderful job. Thank you for participating in the Scavenger Hunt and to Anna, Ashton, and Olivia congratulations on winning prizes. I would be remiss if I did not thank my Sergeant at Arms, Sandra Fincel, and her assistant, Donna Horton, as well as Deborah Burrows, Rhode Island, and Linda Oliver, Oklahoma, for posting the National Colors. To all the NEC’s volunteering as pages and the DAVA national staff, thank you!

As you can see, no one accomplishes their year without those around them who support and encourage them through the good times and stressful ones. We have proven again that DAV Auxiliary is not an “I” organization, it is a “WE” organization working together.

Building Better Caregivers

Are you a veteran caregiver? Veteran caregivers are partnering with VA to provide the best care possible for their loved ones. A free, six-week online workshop is available to veteran caregivers. This course, offered online, will help build a strong personal foundation to support yourself, and allow you to learn ways to become an advocate for the veteran in your life. To be eligible, the veteran you care for must be enrolled in VA Healthcare. To learn more, please visit <https://va.buildingbettercaregivers.org/>.

Making a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families.

DAV AUXILIARY

Craig Johniken,
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



"You've Got a Friend"

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



Constitution and Bylaws

The latest version of the National Constitution and Bylaws is currently in production and is expected to arrive in time for National Fall Conference.

Why a new book every year?

An interim committee performs an annual review of the constitution and bylaws and considers all resolutions submitted. Recommendations of this committee are presented to the national convention committee and changes are adopted on the convention floor by the registered delegates. Also, changes are made to the listings of national officers, chairmen, and national executive committee members.

Units and members are encouraged to purchase or download the revised book. The most recent version is available for download at <http://www.davauxiliary.org/membership/ConstitutionBylaws.aspx>.

VAVS Representative Appointments Coming Soon

During the odd-numbered years, national headquarters sends a form to each State Auxiliary Commander asking for their VAVS Representative recommendation/s. The VAVS Representative must be in a member in an active unit, be a volunteer at the VA Medical Center, and have sincere interest in the welfare of the hospitalized veterans. They must be able to work effectively with others, the members of the organization, and fellow representatives from other organizations on the VAVS Committee. Quarterly VAVS meeting attendance is required.

Once the State Commander completes the form/s with the recommended name, address, phone number, and other necessary information, it should be returned to national headquarters. Upon receipt, the recommended VAVS Representative will be certified through national headquarters as the Representative to serve a two-year term (ending December 31, 2019).

Upon completion of the certification, the VAVS Representative will receive a VAVS Deputy recommendation form, a certification card, and a copy of VAVS 50A, the volunteer hour report form that is due monthly.

Reminders:

- **Applications**—When sending in a membership application to National Headquarters, please verify that it is legible. This will avoid cards being printed with incorrect information. If we are unable to read the information, this results in processing delays. Also, don't forget to include the date of birth and a contact phone number and/or email!
- **Bank Charges**—We are finding more often that units and state departments are utilizing banks that charge fees for low balances, printed statements, or copies of checks. Be frugal and shop around for banks that will work with you to help save money.
- **Subscription Available**—For \$10 per year, you can request a copy of the month Headquarters News publication delivered right to your mailbox. For more information please contact our office. Publications are also available online and through social media.
- **Unit Mail** is sent to Adjutants, but is not their personal mail. Take all communications to the next unit meeting and share with the members.
- **Financial Report Forms** are being revised. Watch for updated information soon regarding this form as well as financial reporting requirements due to the recent accounting year change (July 1—June 30).