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**National Fall Conference**

The 2017 National Fall Conference was a successful and informative event! The national chairmen presentations were educational and interactive, and members were encouraged to participate in the question and answer session, making this a thoroughly informative and enjoyable experience.

No organization has a greater patriotic spirit than DAV and Auxiliary, and that point was quite evident and moving at the opening session. As many members wore their red, white, and blue colors, the display of patriotism, pride and honor of our great country was evident.

The casual atmosphere of this year’s conference allowed everyone to remain comfortable while getting the job done. Aside from learning, the conference was also a time to renew friendships and exchange ideas. The inception of the hospitality night Friday evening in place of the banquet allowed friends to come together and laugh, while the Saturday evening reception let members mingle and relax.

DAV National Commander Delphine Metcalf-Foster and DAV National Adjutant Marc Burgess addressed the members Saturday morning, leaving us inspired to continue to address Congress on the needs of veterans, their families, and caregivers alike.

With 330 members in attendance this year, we cannot wait to see what 2018 has in store. Make plans to join us September 27—29 in Lexington, Kentucky, for another action-packed conference. We look forward to seeing you all there!

**Conference Donation Totals**

- Caregiver Support—$837.00
- Veterans Voices Writing Project—$50.00
- Education Scholarship Fund—$2,475.00
- DAVA 4 Kids—$2,000.00
- Service/Support Fund—$2,925.00
- Winter Sports Clinic—$650.00
- Freedoms Foundation—$325.00
- Disaster Relief Program—$4,200.00

**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 online course builds a strong personal foundation to support yourself, and provides advocacy resources to assist the veteran in your life. To be eligible, the veteran you care for must be enrolled in VA Healthcare. Visit [https://vimeo.com/233370892](https://vimeo.com/233370892) for Rachel’s story and visit [https://va.buildingbettercaregivers.org](https://va.buildingbettercaregivers.org) for more information.
Disaster Relief—Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria

The recent hurricanes have had a gripping impact on thousands of residents and DAV’s Disaster Relief Team has been providing relief supply kits and financial assistance to veteran families so they can obtain food, warm clothes, and shelter. 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.

Caregiver Support at the 2018 TEE Tournament

The annual National TEE Tournament in Iowa City, Iowa, is a week long rehabilitation program for Veterans who are legally blind, amputees, those who use wheelchairs or have other disabilities, while promoting fellowship and camaraderie.

While the attendees participate in events such as golf, horseshoes, bowling, and kayaking, caregivers in attendance get a chance to participate in events of their own. These events include arts and crafts and outings, allowing caregivers a chance to take a break from the normal day-to-day tasks. Staff and volunteers remain with the veterans during the caregiver breaks, allowing the caregiver to completely focus on their own well-being and enjoyment.

With the unanimous approval of the National Executive Committee, the DAV Auxiliary will become a sponsor of these caregiver events, promoting the organization’s support of caregivers. Donations are being accepted from members, units, and state departments in support of this effort. It is estimated that the cost for the week long caregiver support program will be approximately $4,000.

If you are interested in participating or volunteering in the 2018 TEE Tournament, please visit https://www.va.gov/opa/speceven/tee/.

Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit Report by Ellen Timmerman, National Mae Holmes Chairman

To complete the Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit Report, the other reports must be completed first. The information you will need to complete your Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit Report is on your other completed reports...so easy.

You must use the 2017-2018 reports, so please disregard old report forms you have or grading sheets. These annual reports don’t always change, but most years there may be small changes, and possibly the grading sheets used by state departments, so always use the new reports that are sent to you.

All references to “quota” have been removed from the 2017-2018 report form. Using the wrong report form could result in disqualification.

All the information entered on the other program reports is also placed on the Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit National Report.

You do the work, you deserve the credit.
Keep up the good work!
God bless each of you for all that you do to help our Veterans and their families.
2017-2018 Membership Recruitment Incentives

**Junior Members—**
- Sign up a new junior life member
  - Online Applications
  - Paper Applications
  - Submit minimum $10 payment with application or call National Headquarters with credit card payment
- Be entered to win a $50 DAV Store gift certificate
- Drawings held December 31, March 31, and June 30

**Unit Incentive—**
- Units recruiting at least 15 new paid members by June 30 will be entered into a drawing to win $250.
- Use the special yellow applications (or a copy) indicating campaign code 440.
- Unit receives one entry per 15 new paid members
- Submit a photo and/or brief description of the member drive and receive an additional entry.
- Remember, winning unit receives $250!

**Recruiter Incentives—**
- Three incentive periods—
  - October 1—December 31
  - January 1—March 31
  - April 1—June 30
- Three drawings—
  - December, March and June
- Recruit one new paid member to be entered
- Each new paid member = one drawing entry
- Each drawing = $500.00 cash!
- The more you recruit = the better chance of winning!

**Be a Mentor –**

There’s no better way to inspire a new member than to offer guidance and support. Download the Mentor template and provide your contact information.

Remember: A $20 down payment starts a new life membership with an indefinite period of time to pay the balance.

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

DAV AUXILIARY

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Patricia Kemper,
National Adjutant

“You’ve Got a Friend”

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

Constitution and Bylaws

The 2017 National Constitution and Bylaw books are now available! To purchase books, please contact Halo Branded Solutions at 800-468-4332, or visit https://www.mylogogear.com/shop/20150515001/p-73358.htm. Books remain at $2.00 each, plus shipping and handling.

All members are encouraged to purchase new books each year. Officer, chairmen, and NEC information updated yearly. Any changes approved by the National Convention delegates will be shaded in gray.

Quantities are limited, so do not delay in purchasing books. The updated Constitution and Bylaws are also available for download online at www.davauxiliary.org.

New Auxiliary Units

Jackson County #8
Medford, Oregon
Chartered July 17, 2017
A. Reed J. Daprato #125
Howell, Michigan
Chartered August 30, 2017
Carson City #7
Carson City, Nevada
Chartered September 14, 2017

Welcome & Congrats!

Deadlines:

- Education Scholarship Applications must be postmarked no later than March 20, 2018.
- Outstanding Member of the Year Award Applications must be postmarked no later than March 20, 2018.

Remember—Applications change year-to-year, so review them and submit all required attachments to avoid disqualification.

Reminders:

⇒ Meetings—Units must hold a minimum of four regular business meetings per year. Additional meetings are encouraged. The minimum quorum is four senior members, and one member present must be the Unit Commander or a Unit Vice Commander.

⇒ Forget-Me-Not Drives and Income—With proper consent, units are able to conduct one Forget-Me-Not drive annually, and must use the supplies available for purchase from the DAV Store. Income from Forget-Me-Not drives are to be used solely for service to disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors, and for no other purpose.

⇒ We’re looking for stories—State Departments and Units who have done something remarkable to should share their story with us. Ideas include, but are not limited to: special fund raisers, outreach programs, holiday events, meetings, and Forget-Me-Not drives. Please send your story and any pictures to dava@dav.org. Your article could be published in our E-Newsletter.

⇒ It is the duty of the adjutant to always share the mail!