

# DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News



3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076 | May 2018



## Quota Achieved!

Congratulations to the following State Departments for making 2017-2018 Quota!

Alabama  
Iowa  
Nevada  
Oregon  
Vermont  
West Virginia

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## VAVS by Melissa Pierce, National VAVS Representative



Greetings all! I recently attended the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual VA Voluntary Service National Advisory Committee Meeting and Conference in beautiful and sunny Tampa, Florida. All I can say is WOW! It was a great opportunity of learning, networking, and fun with fellow National Representatives and Deputies from other VSO's, local VA Representatives and Deputies, and VA staff. I was inundated with information! If you ever have the chance to attend I would highly recommend and strongly encourage it!

I'd like to share a couple things I picked up at the conference. VA Representatives - make sure you are receiving and checking the monthly VAVS reports. There have been a number of discrepancies with volunteers not being credited under the correct organization as well as inaccurate hour reporting. These reports are vital in ensuring that volunteer numbers and hours are being accurately credited.

Also, make sure you are attending your VAVS committee meetings. Representatives and Deputies are the links to the VA and play a vital role not just input regarding events and activities at the VA, but more importantly sharing that information with units within your area. If a representative or deputy misses three (3) consecutive meetings, he/she may be removed from the VAVS committee. Remember, the only excused absence is for the organization's state or national conventions, but volunteers need to be sure to inform VAVS staff of these dates.

I attended a workshop on Episodic Volunteering. Episodic Volunteerism is on the rise in today's society. Episodic Volunteers volunteer on a periodic basis rather than as Regularly Scheduled volunteers. One of the steps our organization can take to strengthen our volunteer program is to include Episodic Volunteers. We can do this by having short-term volunteer opportunities that leave people with a definitive sense of accomplishment and immediate satisfaction. If we are able to cultivate these Episodic Volunteers we may be able to turn them into regular (returning) volunteers.

If you haven't already done so, please remember to fill out your Annual Reports and get them turned in. We know everyone is doing great work at their VA and we would like the chance to see and acknowledge it. I'd like to leave you with this quote by Maya Angelou, "Your legacy is every life you've touched."

## Is Your Unit “Nice?”

The following article has been “borrowed” from the State Department of Ohio’s monthly bulletin. Special thanks to State Senior Vice Commander Darlene Hanneman for allowing us to share.

Does your unit have the “openness and friendliness” factor? Do you make the members feel welcomed when attending meetings? Do you take the opportunity to listen and include the members in the conversation? Are their interests and talents considered? Do your members help with meaningful programs and activities? To have a unit that goes about keeping members fully engaged in an open and friendly atmosphere, make sure you do **NICE**: Need, Involvement, Creativity, and Enjoyment.

- **Need:** To be truly needed is an amazing feeling for a member. The unit will have a committed member if this is sustained. However, the need to feel valued and supported must start as soon as the member joins and must continue through the years. Usually a member who gets involved stays involved. Members who become less involved start attending less and may feel their talents and contributions are no longer wanted or needed. It takes an entire unit to make each individual member feel welcomed, supported, and valued. Remember, a valued member is a happy member who becomes a potential leader.
- **Involvement:** It is so easy to get “caught up” in the moment and forget to look at other unit members to see if all are participating and involved. Some members may only want to be considered for a particular activity and/or responsibility (and that is okay!) but at some point all members need to be involved in something.
- **Creativity:** Members need to fulfill and develop their own creativity. Regardless of what the member may think, each has his or her own special talent or gift to share. Giving members the opportunity to express and grow talents will certainly benefit the entire unit.
- **Enjoyment:** Each member must find his or her membership rewarding, as well as professionally beneficial. Units need to support a variety of programs, activities, fund raising, collaborative efforts, and community initiatives that will actively encourage and engage chapter members of diversified interests. Please add an element of fun. Be sure to offer benefits and services that potential members cannot get anywhere else. Members who work hard and play hard together will enjoy and look forward to future unit meetings and activities.

Look at your own unit experience. How would you rate your unit’s “openness and friendliness” factor? Ask yourself, “Can engaging, maintaining, and growing unit membership be as simple as being **NICE**?”

## Where the Heart Is



DAV Auxiliary Members of Rogers County unit #44 in Claremore, Oklahoma, set out with one mission in mind – making the week sweeter for Claremore veterans.

During the week of Valentine’s Day, Auxiliary members visited Wood Manor and Claremore nursing homes, as well as Brookfield Assisted Living to hand-deliver Valentines, chocolate, and tokens of appreciation and affections to patients.

Unit Junior Vice Commander Millie Moseley said, “We just want to show our support and appreciation to local veterans.” That mission continued after more than 1,300 Christmas cards were collected and sent to veterans in Claremore and across Oklahoma.

“For Valentine’s Day, we visited local nursing homes and facilities to personally hand out Valentine’s cards and gifts to express our love and gratitude to these men and women who have served our country.”

Those tokens of appreciation meant more to the veterans than the Auxiliary members could imagine. This outstanding display of affection only continues to encompass the passion and dedication of members of the DAV Auxiliary.

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



"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." Philippians 4:8

As we embark on the season of state and national conventions, it is very easy to focus on the small imperfections in people, events, or processes. Would we be better served to look at the same situations and find the good in them? I can assure you that none of us are perfect, but just by our desire to be members, to serve disabled veterans and their family members and our willingness to be of service to others, there is something wonderful in each person!! If we spent just half of the energy looking for the good in our fellow members and learning something about each person imagine how positive our conventions would be. There are great things being done each day by members who quietly go about their day and never mention them. Did you take a minute to thank the convention committee, officers, national officers, guests, and national staff for their hard work and dedication, or did you find the one thing you didn't like and focus on that?

Did you invite a new member to sit with you? Did you invite the senior member who may be sitting alone to join your table? Maybe his or her unit dissolved or merged, but they remain committed to the organization. I challenge each of you to find "anything worthy of praise," and spend our energy looking for the positives in each other, in our states, in DAV and DAVA, and at our national events. Our mission is truly about loving and caring for each other, our disabled veterans, and their family members.

### Carol Gray—Past National Commander



DAV Auxiliary Past National Commander Carol Gray of Grand Rapids, Mi., passed away on April 12, 2018. Eligible for membership through her late grandfather, Carol's journey with the organization began as a young junior member attending DAVA functions with her mother and twin sister, Barbara. Obviously, a passionate commitment of service to veterans and their families was instilled at a very young age and continued throughout her life.

Ms. Gray was elected National Commander at the organization's 79<sup>th</sup> national convention in Reno, Nev., in 2000. An active member of Wood-Tazelaar DAV Auxiliary Unit #11 in Muskegon, Mi., Carol held many offices and chairmanships. Among her many other accomplishments, she served as Michigan's State Commander and several years as State Adjutant. Destined to advance to the national level, she served in a number of capacities prior to her election to the organization's highest office. For eight years, she held the position of National Judge Advocate where the organization benefited from her expertise and guidance.

Carol once described herself as "an ordinary member who has had extraordinary opportunities come her way." National Adjutant Pat Kemper describes her as a caring and devoted member whose love for the organization and its mission was evident in everything she did. "She possessed an abundant wealth of bylaw and protocol knowledge which she was always eager to share to help others. Her dedication was inspirational. She will be missed."

### 2018 National Convention Tentative Agenda

7/12 - Auxiliary NEC Meeting	7/15 - Auxiliary Convention Committee Meetings
7/13 - District Meetings	7/16 - Auxiliary Second Business Session
7/14 - Joint Opening Session	7/16 - Forget-Me-Not Luncheon
7/14 - Auxiliary Opening Session	7/16 - Fun Night
7/14 - Financial Reporting Seminar	7/17 - Auxiliary Final Business Session
7/14 - National Commander's Reception	7/17 - Auxiliary NEC Meeting
7/15 - Memorial Service	7/17 - Introduction of National Officers and Dinner

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

## DAV AUXILIARY

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**"You've Got a Friend"**

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## Sponsors Welcome!

Sponsorships are available for the 2018 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

Any business or organization interested in a [sponsorship opportunity](#) should contact Auxiliary national headquarters.

## New Auxiliary Units!

Arnold Byers #45  
Fairhope, Alabama  
Chartered April 13, 2018

Prescott #16  
Prescott, Arizona  
Chartered April 25, 2018



## Reminders:

- **Date of Birth** must be listed on membership applications for all members. If an application is received without a date of birth and we are unable to reach the member, it will be returned.
- **Officer and Financial Report Forms** have been mailed to each unit. Officer reports are to be completed following installation of officers and mailed as indicated on the form. Financial reports are to be completed by the treasurer and audited by a three-member committee after July 1, 2018, but prior to September 30, 2018. Both forms are available online.
- **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.
- **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.

## Unit Indebtedness Explained

Units that are indebted to the organization do not have voice or vote at state or national convention. Units may be indebted for a past-due financial report, state/national mandates, or other financial obligation. Units are encouraged to work with the state department to rectify any indebtedness in a timely manner and to avoid state or national convention delegates from being unable to have voice or vote.

## Unit Hold Status Explained

Units are placed on "hold" for a number of reasons. "Hold" is not a unit suspension. It simply means that until required information is received, membership distribution and mail will be held. Units on hold may continue to conduct business as usual. Convention delegates from an on-hold unit are entitled to vote at state and national conventions. Once the necessary item(s) are received, the "hold" is removed.