

# DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News



3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076 | July/August 2018



## Quota Achieved!

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

Alabama  
Indiana  
Iowa  
Mississippi  
Nevada  
Ohio  
Oregon  
Vermont  
West Virginia  
Wisconsin

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## Legislative by Lynn Helms Prosser, National Legislative Chairman

National Convention brought a great, productive year to a close. It has been my pleasure to serve as your legislative chairman and help our National Commanders and Legislative Team promote the **Commanders' Action Network**. Please continue to let your voices be heard in Washington, DC.

We have won a "big victory" with the passage of **The VA Mission Act (S. 2372)**. This historic legislation will expand support to veteran caregivers of **ALL ERAS** as well as improve veterans quality of care. However, we can't stop now. Together we must continue to keep the promise to the men and women who have served, and are serving, to protect and defend our freedom, especially those who are injured or made ill by their service. It is up to us to defend our present benefits and protect our future. We must continue to educate and remind the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans and their families; especially those making a transition back to civilian life.

I want to thank everyone that joined CAN and participated in this program by communicating with your legislators concerning the continued care of veterans. Please encourage other members to join in our mission to let our legislators know that we "**never leave anyone behind.**" Also, please continue to be an advocate within your communities with local and state legislators and elected officials. We must be the voice for those unable to speak. The homeless and special needs veterans deserve our help and through our mission of service, we can succeed.

It was great to see so many of you in Reno for our National Convention. May God continue to bless the DAV, DAV Auxiliary, our troops and veterans, and may God forever keep us "**America Strong.**"

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

The Mae Homes report is the easiest report units have to complete because all the information for this report was already compiled for the corresponding reports. I think you can understand why I was surprised and disappointed that out of almost 600 hundred units I received only 186 reports by the time I had to send my year-end report to National Headquarters.

Is it time to reconsider how we do reports? This is something I would like you to really think about. We all live very busy lives and maybe there is a way we can make reporting easier.

I know units do the work and credit should be received. Without the information, credit can't be given. We do what we do out of love and respect for our community, veterans and their families. The information on our annual reports is vital to present to national legislators by DAV to show what is needed for veterans and their families, and how much we actually save them by the services you, as members, provide.

**God bless each of you for all that you do in your communities and all that you do to help veterans and their families.**

## Americanism by Carolyn Sensat, National American Chairman

Theodore Roosevelt once wrote, “No other land offers such glorious possibilities to the man able to take advantage of them as does ours.”

So, you ask yourself, “What can I do to become a better American?” As Americans we have a duty, an obligation, to set the example. In our DAV Auxiliary reports on Americanism, we see that Auxiliary members are setting the example. They are teaching flag etiquette, donating patriotic books to libraries and schools, sponsoring patriotic essay contests, or presenting flags.

When saying the Pledge of Allegiance, stand straight, tall and proud; say it with meaning. Fly an American Flag in your front yard and ask local businesses to fly our nation’s flag. If you see a business flying the American Flag thank them for their display of patriotism. They need to know that you have taken notice and you appreciate them.

Continue to set the example to teach our kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews. If we don’t teach them, who will? Americanism makes our nation stronger, more united, and shows support to veterans and troops. Continue to participate in Auxiliary reports; this creates energy, and pass on your Americanism ideas to other units.

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## Hospital by Linda Bailey, National Hospital Chairman

I have reviewed all of the great reports that I have received on Hospital (Non-VA). I appreciate all units that submitted reports. We still have some confusion on what is Hospital and what is VAVS. Below is a brief explanation of the two.

- ⇒ **Hospital** is Non-VA service activities performed and/or donations for Veterans and their families at our general hospitals, nursing homes, rest homes, state hospitals, and soldiers’ homes to raise the morale of the ill and depressed during times of crisis.
- ⇒ **VAVS** is services performed in VA Hospitals, Satellite Clinics, and Contract Homes (A contract nursing home is one that has a formal written contract with the VA to provide care for veterans in their facility).

Let’s have a recap of the DAV Auxiliary Hospital Program (Non-VA):

- Count number of visits to Veterans
- Number of hours spent performing volunteer services in facilities
- Miles traveled to/from facility
- Cost assessed at actual value

Remember, a SMILE can be one of your greatest assets in service to others. Carry one with you and share it with those who would love to see it.

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## Membership by Diane Franz, National Membership Chairman

Congratulations to all the units and the ten state departments that attained quota for the 2017-2018 membership year. With that goal we have increased our efforts to better serve veterans and their families.

In case you missed the names of the persons who received \$500.00 in the quarterly new life membership drawings, they are Anita Ayala, Florida, and Tracy Mashburn, Indiana. The persons that were awarded a \$50.00 gift card to the DAV Store for recruiting a new Junior life member with a \$10.00 down payment were Paul Janecek, Iowa, and Peggy Burks, Tennessee.

Carry a membership application with you or better yet, download the new mobile membership app on your phone or tablet. The directions can be found at [www.davauxiliary.org](http://www.davauxiliary.org) under the membership tab → resources → and then on the drop down menu “Mobile Membership App.”

Don’t let up recruiting new members during the summer months. Always mentor new members; make them feel welcomed and needed to fulfill our purpose.



**VAVS** by Melissa Pierce, National VAVS Chairman

I'd like to thank National Commander Craig and the entire national staff for their confidence and support this past year. Our Auxiliary members have been extremely busy assisting Veterans and their families. The VAVS Annual Reports showed that as a group we have donated over 50,000 hours of time at local VA's. According to the VA Voluntary Service website, that equals over 1 million dollars! Thank you everyone!

As we move forward into the new year, I encourage you to continue your efforts. Veterans and VA Medical Centers need your support. Contact your local VA and ask if there are any special needs they have or programs your unit can assist with. Ask your VAVS Representatives and Deputies to keep you informed of what is going on. If you are the VAVS Representative or Deputy, make sure you are attending the quarterly meetings and letting units know what is going on so they can participate – you are their lifeline to the VA and events occurring at the VA.

Another option for involvement is the VA Adaptive Sports Programs & Special Events. The Golden Age Games will be coming up in Albuquerque in August; the Summer Sports Clinic will be in San Diego in September; Orlando is hosting the Wheelchair games the end of July – beginning of August; the Creative Art Competition will be in Des Moines the end of October - beginning of November, and the one closest to my heart, the TEE Tournament in Iowa City will be celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> year in September. All of these events need volunteers and support. If you are able, consider volunteering – seeing the Veterans enjoying life and getting to participate in activities will touch your heart!

Thank you for your continued support of Veterans, their families, and for volunteering your time. And thank you for your donations, both goods and monetary. It has been a pleasure to serve you as your National VAVS Representative.

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**Community Service** by Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, National Community Service Chairman

A lack of having enough volunteers is a concern heard across the country and across agency types. I am constantly getting emails from my daughter's school asking for help with one task or another. As the Adjutant for the State of California, I am actively seeking volunteers to fill key responsibilities of the Auxiliary. Nationally, the DAV Transportation Network is desperately seeking volunteers to drive veterans to and from medical appointments.

The DAV's new website [www.volunteerforveterans.org](http://www.volunteerforveterans.org), is a resource to match volunteers with veterans, and is currently experiencing a different challenge. Surprisingly, the site currently has more volunteers willing to help than veterans posting opportunities.

What is happening? Let's begin with the good news: volunteers do exist! This year, DAV Auxiliary members reported over 324,000 hours spent performing a wide range of community service activities. This is amazing and should be celebrated! It is easy to be discouraged when we are short of volunteers for a particular duty, but it is important that we continue to project a positive attitude. The more we can appreciate our current volunteers and create a culture of positivity, the more people will be attracted to our organization.

We also need to be realistic about our own expectations for the tasks we ask of our volunteers. Between family and work obligations, and a need for personal time, people just aren't as available as they once were. It may be necessary to split what was once one person's job into two or more. We are living in a shifting culture of volunteerism, and we must be flexible and creative in our efforts to attract and keep volunteers.

**Winner! Winner! Winner!**

**Congratulations to Virginia Davis, South Carolina unit #21!** Her name was drawn to receive \$500 cash for recruiting one new paid senior member between April 1 and June 30.

**Congratulations to Joyce Thomas, Alabama unit #26!** Her name was drawn to receive a \$50 gift card to the DAV Store for recruiting one junior life member with a \$10 down payment between April 1 and June 30.

*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](mailto:dava@dav.org)  
[www.davauxiliary.org](http://www.davauxiliary.org)



**“You’ve Got a Friend”**

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



## 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.

## Caregiver Initiative Program

At the September 28, 2017, National Executive Committee meeting, the committee approved the Caregiver Initiative Project in an effort to provide financial sponsorship of caregiver/companion events held in conjunction with veteran-related adaptive sports events. We saw first-hand the impact on the community of caregivers attending events specifically designed for them while their veterans participated in the VA’s annual National Disabled Veterans TEE Tournament, prompting the idea of a Caregiver Initiative to demonstrate our support of these unsung heroes.

On May 21, 2018, and with the approval of the National Executive Committee, the DAV Auxiliary Caregiver Initiative was sanctioned as an official program. Plans are already underway for Auxiliary sponsorship of caregiver/companion activities at the National Disabled Veterans TEE Tournament in Iowa City, Iowa, later this year. While the project is in the very early stages, there exists a possibility of expanding this sponsorship/support to caregivers and companions at the annual Winter Sports Clinic and other similar events.

The success of the Caregiver Initiative is dependent upon donations from members, units, and state departments and that effort is beginning to take hold. This new program is one we must actively advocate for, promote, and show our support of veteran caregivers.

If you’d like to support this program, or have questions, please contact our office at 877.426.2838, option 8.

## Reminders:

- ⇒ **Applications** should be sent in immediately upon receipt. Do not hold applications and/or payments. Members expect to receive membership cards promptly.
- ⇒ **Yellow applications** with the campaign code 440 will still be accepted as a general application even though the incentive period has ended. If you have several on hand, please consider using those first.
- ⇒ **National Fall Conference** hotel accommodations are filling up fast. If you haven’t done so already, please make your reservation to avoid the possibility of being assigned to an overflow hotel.
- ⇒ **Updated National Constitution and Bylaw books** that reflect amendments passed at the 2018 National Convention will be available in the next few months. Please watch for announcements in future newsletters as well as on social media for ordering information.