

DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News



3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076 | March 2019



Quota Achieved!

Congratulations to the following State Departments for making 2018-2019 Quota!

- Alabama
- Arizona
- Florida
- Indiana
- Louisiana
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- Virginia
- West Virginia
- Puerto Rico

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From the Desk of National Commander Ellen Timmerman

This year is going by so fast! It's election time for some of our units and within the next few months, all state departments and units will have elected new officers. Before your newly elected unit treasurers are installed you must do a short audit just to make sure everything is in order and the books balance. This is for the protection of both the outgoing and incoming treasurers, even though in some cases they may be the same people and will verify that the books are in order and ready for a new and productive year. This audit does not require the completion of the annual financial report form and is for unit records only – **please don't send this audit report to National Headquarters, it's just for your records.** The only audit information that goes to National Headquarters is reported on the Annual Financial Report form mailed to unit adjutants for the period July 1 through June 30.

Support your elected officers and don't be afraid to encourage new ideas that may move your unit forward. With change comes experience. I know sometimes it's not always what we want, but give it a fair chance. If something doesn't work out you can always try something different, but always "think outside of the box".

A quote from Benjamin Franklin that was recently given to me by our National Adjutant, Pat Kemper, "When you're finished changing, you're finished." This should be a saying we use in our units, our state departments, and our national programs because we are not finished and I hope the DAV Auxiliary never is. Let's grow and accept changes with a positive attitude.

Keep up the good work! God bless each of you for all that you do to help Veterans and their families. Together, we can get it done.

Caregiver Initiative Program by Melissa Pierce, National Chairman

Caregivers come in all forms. They are not just family by blood, they are family by heart. I recently saw a post on Facebook from my local VA seeking caregivers for a nursing home alternative program for Veterans. I couldn't help but think, "What's this all about?" The article had a CBS News story about a family in Indiana, with six children, who have opened their home, and more importantly their hearts, to three Veterans so they don't have to go into a nursing home. What a great idea and a great opportunity to teach a younger generation about giving back! (If you're interested in checking out the video, visit the [Iowa City VA Health Care Facebook page.](#))

This VA program uses private homes with trained caregivers available 24/7 to serve as an alternative to a nursing home. These caregivers help Veterans with daily living activities, medications, meals, some nursing assistance (if caregiver is a registered nurse), recreational and social activities. Caregivers get to spend time with Veterans, giving back in a very unique way. What a great experience for both the Veteran and caregiver!

Check with your local VA to see if a program is available in your area if you are interested and able to open up your home and your heart to the Veterans in need near you.

"Caring about others, running the risk of feeling and leaving an impact on people, brings happiness." *Harold Kushner, Rabbi*

Membership by Lynn Helms Prosser, National Membership Chairman

Membership is the very backbone of our existence and is our most valuable tool to help fulfill our promises to veterans, their families, and to our great nation. As members of the DAV Auxiliary, we not only have a great opportunity to improve our own lives, but we have an obligation to reach out to every veteran and their family, informing them of our mission. We must be willing to step out of our comfort zone and approach all military families, active or retired, and their families whenever and wherever the opportunity may arise. DAV and DAV Auxiliary has an endless list of resources to provide support, guidance, comradeship, and service to its members and their families. Membership in the DAV and DAV Auxiliary is “priceless,” and we should always be prepared to recruit eligible new members and invite them to our meetings and community events.

National DAV/DAV Auxiliary Headquarters provides, free of charge, tools to assist members with recruitment: membership applications, an array of brochures explaining our mission, pamphlets packed full of information about VA benefits, legislative issues affecting the lives of veterans and their families, educational benefits, employment opportunities, and patriotism.

Spring is right around the corner so now is the perfect time to plan membership drives at local community events and during unit/chapter fundraisers. Chapter and unit members can plan a joint social meeting like a picnic or cookout and invite family and friends. This may help to increase attendance at meetings and encourage membership awareness.

State Department and Unit membership chairmen are asked to remind members about our membership incentives for 2018-2019. Please explain the lime green (or any color) applications and the use of code 441. Our next drawing will be March 31, 2019: Junior Life Membership—\$50.00 cash and Senior Life Membership—(2) \$300.00 cash awards.

Remember, there is no better way to inspire new and older members than to offer guidance, support and comradeship. Thank you very much for all that you are doing for our organization.

May God continue to bless our troops, our veterans and their families, and may we continue to stay “America Strong.”

Recruiter Incentives –

- * Three drawings –
December, March and June
- * Recruit one new paid member to be entered
- * Each new paid member = one drawing entry
- * Each drawing = \$300 cash each for two recruiters!
- * The more you recruit = the better chance of winning!

Unit Incentive –

- * Units recruiting at least 15 new paid members by June 30, 2019, will be entered into a drawing to win one of two \$300 cash awards.
- * Use the special lime green applications (or a copy) indicating campaign code 441.
- * Unit receives one entry per 15 new paid members
- * Remember, two winning units will receive \$300!

Junior Members –

- ⇒ Sign up a new junior life member
- * Online Applications
- * Paper Applications
- * Submit minimum \$20 payment with application or call National Headquarters with credit card payment
- ⇒ Be entered to win a \$50 cash award
- ⇒ Drawings held December 31, March 31, and June 30

Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit by Diane Franz, National Chairman

We are close to our deadline for the information needed to complete the Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit Report. Even if your State Department does not judge the other program reports, all Units must complete and submit this report. Once you have all the information from the other reports, the Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit Report is the easiest to complete. A Unit does not have to make quota in order for the report to be judged. This report shows all the work the members have done to benefit Veterans, their families, and the community. Don't hide your accomplishments under a basket—let them shine through for all to see.

The Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit Report will allow everyone see the picture the Unit has put together. Let's meet the goal of **ALL** Units submitting their reports so we can put together a wonderful picture of what DAV Auxiliary members have done and can report monumental amounts at the National Convention.

May God bless our Veterans, our members, our families, and our great country of the United States of America.

Americanism by Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, National Americanism Chairman

By the time you read this I will have returned from the DAV National Mid-Winter Conference in Washington D.C. I struggled a bit with how I would tie this experience in with my role as Americanism Chairman. After all, each letter we write, each email we send, and every legislator we visit are documented in the Legislative Report, not Americanism.

I was stumped until I remembered that the Americanism Report asks if Unit Members and others were encouraged to vote. At times it may be easy to forget that the whole legislative process relies on people who go to their polls and vote on Election Day. In America, we all have an opportunity and right to help to decide who will govern our nation. Furthermore, we also have the obligation to communicate with our elected officials once they take office. Expressing our opinion, especially if it is not held by the majority, is how we ensure that our democracy functions the way our founding fathers envisioned.

Former Vice President Hubert Humphrey spoke about the treatment of the weakest members of society as a reflection of a government: "The moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped."

Less than 0.5 percent of Americans currently serve in the military. Not only does this mean that fewer Americans are experiencing the hardships of war, it also means that veterans and their families will conceivably become a minority group. As difficult as this is may be to imagine, the treatment of veterans and their families are likely to be part of the moral test that Humphrey spoke about.

We are truly blessed that America is a country where everyone has a right to express their opinions. Reminding our elected officials to keep the promise to veterans and their families in the best way to express our American spirit and ideals.

Community Service by AnnMarie Hurley, National Community Service Chairman

Valentine's Day brought a lot of good will to family, friends, and, of course, our veterans. The cold weather will end soon; and, with good weather coming, we should be able to more easily visit a veterans facility, or even a neighbor who hasn't had company because of the cold weather. If you can't get out, make a phone call or send a note. You'll feel better, as will the recipient.

I recently attended the Massachusetts Jewish War Veterans breakfast where they celebrated their 65 year program "Classmates Today and Neighbors Tomorrow." They awarded scholarships each year to one student at each high school in Massachusetts that participates. In 64 years, they have honored over six thousand students. The idea is to foster brotherhood among all men and women, regardless of race, color or creed, by word or deed. A speaker said, "These students, whether the top winner or not, each answered the call, and the JWV goal has been met."

There were 54 winners named on the event program, and I believe most of them were in the auditorium, either at the head table, the lower head table, or in the audience. Before the close of the event, they asked all of the students who hadn't already spoken to the audience to line up so they could each speak for a few minutes at the podium.

They named their sponsors, which colleges they were going to, what studies they would major in, and spoke about their community service. Along with their excellence at school, what they contributed to their communities was what helped them achieve this scholarship. I was happy that the past two years there was a student from my home town present at the awards breakfast.

A few of the college representatives present were from Suffolk University, Harvard College, MIT, Boston College, and Brandeis University, among others. There was also a representative of the Governor of Massachusetts.

All of these high school seniors were impressive. One student was asked how, with her academic and community achievements, she was able to be social. Her response was that her parents encouraged her to be involved with her community. One said she celebrates service and that fosters leadership and excellence. Another mentioned "Love of country, and service to the nation." Over the years, one had accumulated 16,000 hours of service to the local community. It was an incredible morning, and it is good to know that our schools are promoting community service. I know my own granddaughter has been involved in some of the local community service events with other students.

Please, let me know what your unit is doing so that could be an example for others to follow.

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



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“Together, we can get it done!”

Save These
DATES

DAV and Auxiliary 2019 National Convention

Rosen Shingle Creek
Orlando, Florida
August 3-6, 2019
Phone: 407.996.9939
\$137 Single/Double

DAV Auxiliary 2019 National Fall Conference

Embassy Suites, Lexington
September 26-28, 2019
Phone: 859.455.5000
\$126.95 Single/Double
\$133.95 Triple/Quad
All rooms are mini-suites
and include complimentary
breakfast, Wi-Fi, parking,
and evening manager
reception. **Reservation
deadline is September 4.**

VAVS by Melissa Pierce, National VAVS Chairman

I don't know about you, but I LOVE to see all the things we are doing for our Veterans and their families! If you've been on Facebook over the past couple of months, you have probably seen the many photos and posts of DAV and Auxiliary spreading holiday cheer and general goodwill to Veterans and their families across the country. From food baskets and gifts, to holiday parties, Christmas caroling, and assisting with National Salute to Veteran Patients, our members have been out in force sharing sunshine, smiles, conversation and laughter.

Our impact doesn't have to end with the holiday season. Brainstorm with your Unit to come up with ideas to spread some of that holiday cheer throughout the year. It could be a pizza party or ice cream social, sponsoring a BINGO or game night, or maybe just getting a group together to visit patients a couple weekends (or evenings) a month. I recently read in VAVS minutes from Massachusetts about VSO's sponsoring wards at the VA and thought this was a great idea! You could consider holding a toiletry, clothing or gift card drive with your Chapter. Check with your local VA Voluntary Services office to see what would work best at your local VA and what their specific needs are. Not all VA's will have the same needs. As always, I look forward to seeing your pictures on Facebook, but as a reminder, remember to also share your pictures with National!

No matter how big or small, just get out there and do! And remember "Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference." *Kathy Calvin*

DAV Auxiliary Outstanding Member of the Year Award

The purpose of the DAV Auxiliary Outstanding Member of the Year Award is to recognize the contributions and dedication of an outstanding member of the Auxiliary whose efforts have enhanced the goals of the Auxiliary, DAV, and has been active in the community since becoming an Auxiliary member.

Any active senior member of the DAV Auxiliary is eligible for this award with the exception of a previous winner of the national organization's Outstanding Member of the Year Award, a Past National Commander, or a DAV/DAV Auxiliary employee. Any DAV Auxiliary member in good standing may sponsor an individual for this award.

Only the current official form will be accepted. Additional attachments may not exceed ten (10) pages and sections must be numbered to match the corresponding section on the official form. Remember, only involvement and achievement during applicant's years of Auxiliary membership should be included. Do not include involvement in other veterans' organizations.

The completed nomination form must be submitted to National Headquarters and postmarked no later than March 29, 2019.