

DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News

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



Quota Achieved!

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

Alabama
Arizona
Florida
Idaho
Indiana
Louisiana
Mississippi
Nevada
New Hampshire
New Jersey
Texas
Vermont
Virginia
West Virginia
Puerto Rico

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From the Desk of National Commander Ellen Timmerman



Volunteer – One who serves or acts of his or her own free will. One who gives help, does a service or takes an obligation voluntarily - *Webster's New College Dictionary*.

Throughout the country, DAV and DAVA volunteers are working in VA hospitals and clinics, helping veterans get to appointments, and general assistance. These man hours amount to dollars and cents that can now be spent on hiring doctors, nurses, and purchasing much needed equipment to fulfill the care of our veterans.

The "volunteer" DAV Van Drivers have traveled millions of miles and spent thousands of hours of their valuable time transporting veterans to and from their appointments. Some of these drivers get up extremely early to make these trips, especially in rural areas, and travel hundreds of miles in a day.

Local volunteers help by taking veterans to shop for groceries, repairing and/or replacing items around their homes, and providing local transportation in areas outside of the DAV Transportation Network. They also visit hospitalized veterans or those in assisted living quarters, and make themselves available to help the veteran's family.

Volunteers help in our communities in so many ways. Even though you don't have a VA medical facility in your area, you can always volunteer to help at your local hospitals, elderly day care facilities or even some nursing homes. Most schools can use your help in some way. Get your "Junior members" involved in volunteering. There are so many opportunities in your community that they are too numerous to mention

These extraordinary people are not looking for payment or reward doing these things; they are just doing these tasks to help veterans and their families. They do these things out of caring and love.

You can find out about veteran's in your area that need help by stopping by your local VA Clinic and letting them know you are available to help or you can also sign up on line at www.volunteerforveterans.org. You don't need to be a veteran to sign up but you do need to be willing to volunteer to help.

Take time and volunteer to improve the lives of others in need and feel good about yourself!!

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.

"As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands—one for helping yourself, the other for helping others." -Audrey Hepburn

VAVS by Melissa Pierce, National VAVS Chairman



Welcome to April! State Convention time is quickly approaching! Hopefully your unit has gathered together all your VAVS information for the VAVS and Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit annual report forms and have them filled out and mailed to your State Departments. If not, we hope you will be doing it soon! The information included on these reports is vital to our organization and helps to demonstrate the impact our members are having as we work together to help our Veterans, their families, the community, and support of our local VA Medical Centers.

The VA will be celebrating National Volunteer Week April 15-19. This is a time to give a special salute to the thousands of men, women, and youth who give a part of themselves every time they volunteer in the VA Medical Centers. These volunteers say thank you to Veterans every day, so now is our time to say thank you to them! Is your VA Medical Center doing something special to thank their volunteers? This would be a great time to encourage members to get involved with VAVS. Maybe consider inviting someone new to volunteering along to see the impact volunteers make in the lives of Veterans.

Easter is near. Has your unit considered an Easter-themed idea? Maybe consider making small Easter baskets with your Juniors and let them help deliver them to patients at the VA. The smallest gesture goes a long way! The baskets can include small travel toiletries (alcohol-free), canteen books, socks, pens, or game books for example.

April is also Month of the Military Child. Have you ever considered reaching out to someone at the VA to see if there are Veterans with young children who need a helping hand? Maybe they're struggling to buy clothes and shoes or need help with school supplies. Maybe they have enough for the basics, but nothing left over for special treats. Reach out and see if you can help! Consider holding food/clothing drives, invite them to your unit meeting for a special day of games and treats, or maybe a free garage sale. The unit could reach out to local restaurants or family fun centers for gift cards so these families can get out and have a special evening together. Put on your thinking caps and see what great ideas you come up with!

As you can see April is full of opportunities for your Unit to get involved – What will you do? Don't forget to share your stories with national headquarters—dava@dav.org.

Junior Activities by Icilda Marley, National Junior Activities Chairman

We say goodbye to winter and welcome spring. The DAV and DAV Auxiliary has members in need of spring cleaning help on every level. Chapters and Units see how you can involve the Junior members. Units get very busy doing seasonal projects that benefit veterans at home and our troops that are deployed. DAV Auxiliary Unit #62 in Buffalo, Missouri, does fundraisers all year to defray the cost of the many boxes sent to our deployed troops at Christmas.

A good project is handmade art, such as ornaments, valentine's, shamrocks and Easter eggs placed on the wall or door of a hospitalized Veteran with a note of gratitude written on it. This lifts spirits and brings joy.

Some Juniors are going to Camp Corral for the first time and some doing a return visit. Please submit a short story and a picture about your experience at camp.

Please be aware of date sensitive forms and reports associated with your junior auxiliary.

While enjoying spring break, thank our Veterans and troops deployed for the freedoms we have because of them.

DAV Auxiliary junior members attending national convention are encouraged to sign up to participate as pages. They will volunteer during meetings with passing out information, escorting dignitaries as needed, and be on hand to assist members throughout the convention. If you have a junior interested in volunteering, please contact national headquarters at 877-426-2838, option 8, and provide their contact information.

Membership by Lynn Helms Prosser, National Membership Chairman

Congratulations to all of the DAV Auxiliary State Departments and Units that have already made their membership quotas for 2018-2019. As your Membership Chairman, I also want to thank each member that recruited new members, including new juniors. Many Units and Departments are just a few members away from their quotas. I am asking all department membership chairmen to get an updated membership list and contact their units, either by emails or letters, informing them how many members they need to make quota. Give them encouragement and ideas to recruit new members during fund raisers, community festivals, church bazaars, and remind them that all DAV members are eligible, as well as family members and neighbors. Don't forget a junior membership drive! Juniors can be such an asset by helping with chapter and unit projects, making cards and crafts for hospital and nursing home patients, attending community events and passing out small flags. The list is endless.

Congratulations to all winners that have participated in our membership incentive and used Code 441 on their forms. Remind members that they still have a chance to win cash awards for recruiting new members, including juniors life members, until June 30, 2019. DAV members can recruit new Auxiliary members also, and by using Code 441, they too are eligible for the drawing.

Many Departments and Units are already preparing to elect new officers for 2019-2020. All present officers and members should render support, guidance and encouragement to all new officers during the transition. Revisit our mission, "Making a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families" and our four great principles—COMRADESHIP, LOYALTY, DEVOTION AND SERVICE.

As your National Membership Chairman, I can't stress enough how the future success of our wonderful organizations, the DAV and DAV Auxiliary, depends on membership growth. Thank you so much for all you are doing to support and promote our mission.

May God continue to bless and keep our military personnel, veterans and their families safe, and may we always stay "America Strong."

And the
winners are....

Congratulations to Patricia Orr, Florida Unit 63, and Nicole Gaughan, Florida Unit 30! Their names were drawn to receive \$300 cash each for recruiting one new paid senior member between January 1 and March 31.

Congratulations to Matilda Brooks! Her name was drawn to receive \$50 cash for recruiting one new junior life member with a \$20 down payment between January 1 and March 31.

Caregiver Initiative Program by Melissa Pierce, National Chairman

We all know what a caregiver is, some of us are caregivers. We are the spouses, children, siblings, parents or friends that step up to ease the burdens of our veterans. It is not always easy. We stumble. We make mistakes. We get tired. But we keep going. Our inner strength and determination drives us to continue on. We don't do it for the thanks. We do it to see our veterans smile and to know in our hearts that we are making an impact in their lives. We do it because we care.

We occasionally need a break. We occasionally feel isolated. We occasionally feel disconnected. We don't ask for help. We don't always accept help when it is offered. But don't give up on us – keep reaching out.

As Auxiliary members our mission is to "Make A Difference." How can you make a difference? Invite me to a meeting. Take me out for coffee. Offer to visit with my veteran while I run errands. Be an ear to listen. Drop me an encouraging note. Oftentimes it's the little things that are appreciated the most.

The DAV has a [website](#) dedicated to information regarding caregivers – caregiver education, initiatives, legislation, links to resources and more. Caregivers play a vital role to the health and daily care of our veterans and face many unique challenges, yet often they are overlooked and do not receive the benefits and support that they need. Share this website with friends and family, share the information at a meeting, and help to get the word out. Caregivers are our Unsung Heroes – you can help to make a difference.

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



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.***

DAV AUXILIARY

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“Together, we can get it done!”

New Auxiliary Unit!

San Pedro Valley #26
Benson, Arizona
Chartered March 1, 2019

WELCOME

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.

Reminders:

- **Delegate Listings**—Units should submit the yellow delegate listing for those selected/elected to attend National Convention in Orlando. Even if a member is unsure if he/she will attend, add them as a delegate/alternate.
- **Quota**—Units are no longer required to make quota by April 30 to be eligible for the Mae Holmes National Outstanding Unit award. Each unit is required to complete this form so that the NEC for their district is able to complete their annual report to include those amazing works. The state department will also be responsible for sending a copy of each report to national headquarters for the purpose of a cumulative report that will be released in late 2019.
- **Installation of Unit Officers**—The Unit Commander and Unit Officers can be installed by an Auxiliary Past National Commander, an elected National Officer, the National Adjutant, the National Assistant Adjutant, an elected State Officer, a Past State Commander, or a past Unit Commander. The incoming Unit Commander selects the installing officer. The Auxiliary ritual must be used for installation.