

DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News



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



May American Flag flying days

- May 12 - Mother's Day
- May 18 - Armed Forces Day
- May 27 - Memorial Day

In observance of Memorial Day, DAV Auxiliary National Headquarters will be closed on Monday, May 27, 2019. Thank you.

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National Membership Quota Has Been Achieved!



Thanks to our hard working members, DAV Auxiliary achieved national quota for 2018-2019. We look forward to seeing what can be accomplished throughout the remainder of this membership year.

We would also like to congratulate the following state departments for achieving 2018-2019 membership quota: **Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Puerto Rico.**

From the Desk of National Commander Ellen Timmerman

By now most units have had their elections and installed new officers for the coming year. Congratulations to all the newly elected officers and I hope all of you have a great year. The duties of the officers are listed in the "National Constitution and Bylaws" book. Remember: the governing body is comprised of the members. If you held a position previously, step up and make yourself available to help the person that has been newly elected.

Please take time to read the bylaws. This is the responsibility of all members and gives all of us a better understanding of our DAV Auxiliary and how it works. Be willing to listen to new ideas and encourage everyone to participate.

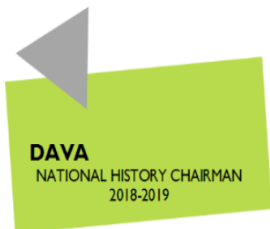
There are a few things that we need to remember and the most important one is to **"be good to each other."** If there is a problem in the unit that cannot be settled among your unit members and you need help, follow the chain of command and first contact your state department. If they find they need help, the state department will contact National Headquarters. If the problem involves the state department, the unit officers can then contact National Headquarters. When you have a complaint, it **must be presented in writing.** Explain what the problem is but don't embellish or exaggerate with personal comments, just the facts please.

If we all work together and enjoy ourselves while we're doing it, we will continue to have a great organization that serves veterans and their families.

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.



Please send all photos of **National Commander Ellen Timmerman** to email or physical address listed to the right.

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Americanism by Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, National Americanism Chairman

Memorial Day, which will be observed on May 27, is celebrated by most Americans as the beginning of Summer. People often take trips, go to the beach, and have barbecues. Actually, Memorial Day is one of America's oldest and most somber holidays. It has very interesting origins.

The observance, which began in the years following the Civil War, was originally known as Decoration Day. By the late 1860s, many Americans had begun hosting tributes to the war's fallen soldiers by decorating their graves with flowers and flags. It gradually came to be known as Memorial Day over the years. Originally designated to honor those lost in the Civil War, the southern states observed a different day to honor the Confederate soldiers who died. In the aftermath of World War I, the holiday evolved to commemorate fallen military personnel in all wars. In 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May, in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees. But, Memorial Day didn't become an official federal holiday until 1971.

In preparing for Memorial Day activities, consider this quote by author Richelle E. Goodrich: "Have you ever stopped to ponder the amount of blood spilled, the volume of tears shed, the degree of pain and anguish endured, the number of noble men and women lost in battle so that we as individuals might have a say in governing our country? Honor the lives sacrificed for your freedoms."

Caregiver Initiative Program by Melissa Pierce, National Chairman

Although I was essentially one of the caregivers for my father for many years, and more recently for my mother, I have never thought of myself as a caregiver. Over the past year I have had the opportunity to look more at who caregivers are, their challenges, and what resources are available. As I was looking, I was trying to see what more there was that we, as the Auxiliary, could be doing for caregivers and I keep circling back to respite care.



Respite care is short-term relief for primary caregivers. It can be an afternoon, a day, several days, or maybe a couple weeks. Respite care allows caregivers to take a break from their demanding role and focus on themselves. There are people that offer respite care, but it usually comes at a cost. That's where we can help. Sitting with a Veteran while a caregiver runs errands, gets their hair done, or takes a walk doesn't cost anything. We are stepping up to help the caregiver, giving a Veteran someone new or different to visit with, and expanding our circle of giving.

This is also why I believe programs such as the Caregiver/Companion program at the National Disabled Veterans TEE Tournament so important. These caregivers are able to take a break from their loved ones for a few hours each day to visit with other caregivers, go shopping, tour local attractions, or see a play. They know their Veteran is in the capable hands of VA staff and volunteers so they can relax, recharge and focus on themselves. They end the week refreshed, renewed, revitalized and, almost as important, with an expanded base of friends they can lean on for support – the other caregivers and volunteers who assist with the program.

Junior Activities by Icilda Marley, National Junior Activities Chairman

Hope everybody had a happy and safe Easter. Please let me know how you honored and celebrated hospitalized or nursing home Veterans. How did your unit remember those deployed?

Juniors, as you become a senior member please don't disappear from us. Many go off to school or some establish their own military status. We want you to please send a card, note, email to your Unit or to national headquarters that you are not forgetting us. We will always remember and pray for you.

Units, our Juniors are a natural with electronics and cell phones. Make an event that would have willing Juniors be available on a meeting night for a hands-on "How To Work This Thing" session.

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!

Membership by Lynn Helms Prosser, National Membership Chairman



As we welcome the warm, sunny days of May, most of us are busy preparing for our State Conventions. Many of you are working on your Annual Reports and now is a perfect time for every State Membership Chairman to check your respective Units membership quotas. Contact those units that have made their quota and congratulate them. Take special time to contact and give encouragement to those units that maybe only need several members to reach their quota. Our membership year does not end until June 30, 2019, and we still have one more incentive drawing on that day: Two recruiters will win \$300.00, two Units will win \$300.00, and a Junior Life Member recruiter will win \$50.00. Don't forget to write Code 441 on your new membership applications. Our strength is in our membership!

Prospective Member List is Now Available! DAVA National Headquarters now offers an exciting new way to assist units and departments to recruit prospective members. A Unit officer may request a Prospective Member List of those eligible for DAV Auxiliary Membership. You may obtain this list by email or written request to DAVA National Headquarters. You must include the zip codes for your unit's geographical area (Only those individuals within that zip code will be provided). Units will also receive a supply of membership applications or brochures upon request. This is a great way to grow your unit and state departments. Please take advantage of this new membership recruitment tool. New members can bring innovative ideas and leadership skills into our great organization. Request your Prospective Member List immediately and get busy recruiting eligible new members.

Recruiting new members is very important; however, don't leave your present members behind. Take time to call those that have not been to a meeting in a while. Let them know you care about them and miss seeing them. Invite them to your meetings and send them letters to inform them of projects and upcoming events. Again, thank you for your service to our veterans and their families.

May God continue to bless our troops, our veterans and their families and keep us "America Strong."

Legislative by Darlene Spence, National Legislative Chairman

A question, an answer, and a reminder! Do you recall ever being asked a question by a fellow DAVA member when he or she already had the answer? All right, do you recall having the answer to a question and it was never asked? Well, do you recall needing a reminder that you never got? I am so happy you answered yes, because now I know I'm not alone! Please give me another minute of your time; I think I'm on to something that may be somewhat related to the previous three questions.

Are we responsible for electing the legislature? See what I mean? Most members know the answer but ask the question anyway. Maybe just to keep us on our toes! However, since we are on the subject, the legislature is elected by we the people. Since we elect the legislators, we can strongly encourage them to endorse bills that serve the best interest of Veterans and their families. We can all write letters; send E-mails; make calls; and given the opportunity, make visits to legislators, encouraging them to vote for those "best interest" bills.

Now, on to an example of a question that you wanted someone to ask but they didn't. The question is: Does your Unit have a legislative chairman? To this question you could have quickly responded yes, right? Each unit should have a Legislative Committee whose Chairman can give a report at each meeting to provide information and keep all Unit members motivated. The Chairman, as well as the Committee Members, can get information for activities and reports from the DAV Website, DAV Magazine, Commanders Action Network (CAN), and legislative websites.

Lastly, the reminder that you possibly didn't get is: please garner support from our legislators for H.R. 1527, the Long-term Care Veterans Choice Act introduced by Representative Clay Higgins. This bill would provide veterans who are no longer capable of living independently, an alternative to nursing home care, in which the veteran would continue to receive the care that they need in an intimate home-like environment through VA's Home-Based Primary Care program, and the Medical Foster Home.

Henry Ford said, "Coming Together Is A Beginning; Keeping Together Is Progress; Working Together Is Success." When we, DAV Auxiliary Members, work together to gain support for important bills that benefit Veterans and their families, we will be successful!

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.

VAVS by Melissa Pierce, National VAVS Chairman

Did you know that when you volunteer you are not only helping others, but also helping yourself? Volunteering is good for both your heart and mind. Studies have proven that people who volunteer are happier, have a sense of purpose, and help stay connected socially. It gives our younger generations a connection to their community and older generations. Volunteering can reduce stress and increase feelings of calm. There have even been studies done that people over 50 who volunteer regularly are less likely to develop high blood pressure. As someone who just celebrated a birthday and whose 40's are more in the rearview mirror than out the front window, this knowledge excites me.

With May comes both Armed Forces Day (18) and Memorial Day (27). Armed Forces Day is a time for us to come together and honor our military heroes for their service. Memorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day, is a time for us to remember those who have died in military service for the United States. Both are great opportunities to ask what we can do for those who served. Signing cards of thanks at a Unit meeting is a simple and inexpensive way to show our Veterans we are thinking of them. Our Juniors can get together and have a card making party. This not only gets them involved, but you can use it as a teaching moment about the two days. Take time to visit Veterans in the VA's and Veterans homes. Hold a thank-you celebration with a cake, cupcakes, brownies or other treats (remember to bring along some sugar-free options.) Reach out to your VA and see what their needs are and how you can be a part of supporting your local Voluntary Service program.

For those that are serving today, have served in the past, and those who have given their lives for this country – we thank you, celebrate you, and honor you!

Warrants/Vouchers/Check Requests

The national bylaws provide for the proper procedure when issuing checks from unit accounts.

- The Adjutant shall initiate **all** warrants/vouchers/check requests on unit approved expenditures at a regular business meeting or as dictated by the approved unit standing rules
- Warrants/vouchers/check requests must be co-signed by the commander*
- The treasurer issues and signs checks in accordance with the warrant/voucher/check request
- The commander co-signs the checks*

*In the absence of the unit Commander, the unit Senior Vice Commander shall co-sign checks. The unit Junior Vice Commander shall co-sign warrants/vouchers/check requests in the absence of the unit Adjutant.

Under no circumstances may a unit have a credit or debit card!

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.