

DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News



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



June American Flag
flying days

Flag Day - June 14
Father's Day - June 16

"I can do things you cannot,
you can do things I cannot;
together we can do great
things." ~Mother Teresa

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From the Desk of National Commander Ellen Timmerman



I think it is time for all of us to look at why we are part of the DAV Auxiliary. Reflect on why you joined and remember our Mission Statement: ***Making a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families.*** We also need to remember that the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary cherishes four great principles: **Comradeship, Loyalty, Devotion, and Service.**

DAV Auxiliary's Membership Initiation Ceremony asks members to always practice those four important principles, to pledge support of our country, obey the constitution and bylaws of the organization, and aid and assist any disabled veteran and their family. Maybe it is time for all of us to repeat the initiation ceremony, truly reflect on its meaning and see if we are following it to the best of our ability.

If you have a personal problem with another member, leave it at home; our meetings are not a place to bring them out. Conduct the business of the Unit or State Department and move on. Bringing those types of issues into the meetings only serves to cause discontent, and in no way helps us to complete our mission of serving disabled veterans and their families. If a discussion topic does not correspond with our mission statement, it has no place in the organization.

I would again like to wish all of the newly elected officers congratulations and encourage all of the outgoing officers to step up and help the new officers if they have any questions. If we all work together, we will have a successful year and everyone will benefit from it, especially the 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.

Junior Activities by Icilda Marley, National Junior Activities Chairman

Hello! I am looking forward to the National Convention in Orlando, Florida; the place where Mickey Mouse lives!

Remember, Junior members do not need credentials for National Convention. There is no charge for their convention registration but they must register. If they plan to serve as convention pages, please provide their names and addresses to Auxiliary National Headquarters so we can add them to the list of pages and send practice instructions.

Thank you to the Units that are sending in the necessary reports and forms. I hope you spent Memorial Day attending memorial services, placing of flags in cemeteries and flag retiring ceremonies. Please be inclusive and cautious during events and activities involving your Juniors.

I hope everyone had a peaceful and safe Memorial Day.

VAVS by Melissa Pierce, National VAVS Representative

May brought me to San Antonio and the 73rd annual VA Voluntary Service National Advisory Committee Meeting and Conference. This was my second year attending and it was once again full of great information. While a number of topics were touched on, one not only touched me, but stood out as a great volunteer opportunity for our members – My Life, My Story. This initiative provides doctors, clinicians and other VA staff, as well as family members a brief highlight of a Veterans life and military history, as well as providing other important information that may not be learned in a single visit.



The My Life, My Story program was launched at the Madison VA in 2013 and is currently at approximately 25 VA's across the country, with more being added. Since the launch of this program, over 3,000 "stories" have been recorded. Staff, volunteers, and students sit down with Veterans for an hour or so to learn "their story." They then write up the story, review it with the Veteran and it goes into the Veterans chart. There are no specific questions asked; it is what the Veteran wants to share. They are not long, only about 1,000 words. But these stories have a great impact on improving Veteran care, developing better treatment plans and helping to establish rapport with the Veteran.

Do you have an interest in or skill for writing? Is it easy for you to establish a connection with Veterans to learn their stories? Do you have an hour or so that you would be willing to sit with a Veteran and learn their story? This is just one more way that we can reach out, get involved and have an impact with Veterans and at our VA's! Reach out to your VA. Discover whether the My Life, My Story is at your VA. If so, ask how you could get the training and get involved!

To find out more information visit: <https://www.va.gov/HEALTH/NewsFeatures/2015/June/Veterans-Adding-Life-Story-to-Medical-Records.asp>

"Listening is an attitude of the heart, a genuine desire to be with another that attracts and heals." J. Isham

Americanism by Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, National Americanism Chairman

It seems fitting that our year ends in June, the month that we celebrate Flag Day. This holiday was established on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress to commemorate the adoption of the flag of the United States. The United States Army also celebrates the U.S. Army Birthday on this date; Congress adopted "the American continental army" after reaching a consensus position in the Committee of the Whole on June 14, 1775.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day; in August 1946, National Flag Day was established by an Act of Congress. Flag Day is not an official federal holiday. Title 36 of the United States Code, Subtitle I, Part A, CHAPTER 1, § 110 is the official statute on Flag Day; however, it is at the president's discretion to officially proclaim the observance.

Although Flag Day may not be the most popular American Holiday, it holds personal significance for me. My father, Alfred Weissman, was an Army veteran of World War II. Each year he sponsored an essay contest for Flag Day in the school system of Yonkers, New York. He treasured the opportunities and privileges that being an American allowed him. The contest was his way of both giving back and educating future generations of Americans.

Without realizing it, my year as chair of Americanism paid tribute to my dad. Like him, I am grateful for the privileges granted to me by virtue of being American. I also have his drive to give back to those who served, and to educate future generations. It has been my honor to serve this Auxiliary as its Americanism chair, and I know that if my dad were alive, he would be proud.

2020 National Convention

The 2020 National Convention will be the 100 year anniversary for DAV. Join us August 1—4 at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas, Texas. Reservations are being accepted by calling 888-370-0980 and requesting the DAV group code. Rates are \$149 single/double per night, plus taxes.

Quota Achieved!

Congratulations to the following state departments for achieving 2018-2019 membership quota: **Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Puerto Rico.**



Community Service by AnnMarie Hurley, National Community Service Chairman

Opportunities for Community Service are all around us—if we take the time, make the effort to participate, or simply say “Yes” when asked. Under the category **General Services to the Community**, helping with any of the many organized services available in your neighborhood will help your neighbors, whether you’ve met them or not. You could volunteer with Meals on Wheels, senior citizens or youth groups, fund drives, blood banks, neighborhood watch and church work.

Just before Easter, I was asked to participate in an exceptionally special ceremony at my church. To engage in a role allowing my presence in the church sanctuary near the altar was of immeasurable importance to me, not only spiritually, but also as an activity within my community. Community service opportunities come in many forms and I’m proud to share this one with you.

For the category **Recreation and Entertainment**, you could volunteer for excursions, put on parties, visit those in nursing homes, read to them, bring gifts, and bake for them, or teach a neighbor to bake something, or teach someone to sew. A few years ago, a group of friends and I were all sewing Christmas gifts like we’d seen at one of our friend’s dinner parties. I had given my sewing machine away many years ago from lack of use and asked one of the women if I could borrow one of hers (She sews all the time). Not only did she lend it to me, but when we all finished our gifts, she told me to keep the machine; she had others. Although the only things I can sew now are items with a fairly straight edge, it was a spur of the moment kindness that I will always remember.

We’ve all submitted our end-of-the-year reports by now, but keep in mind for the new year that opportunities for service are everywhere. When we serve, we benefit from the good will that is passed on to others.

Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit by Diane Franz, National Mae Holmes Chairman

The reports from the states are coming in, but it is somewhat disappointing that not all the units have submitted the program reports. This year it was required that all units submit the Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit report. Fortunately, many that have been received so far have shown the many hours, miles, and donations that were done this past membership year. Thank you to the state Adjutants that sorted the reports in numerical order. You don’t know how much faster that makes the recording go. Good luck to all the first place awardees at the state level that will be judged at the National Convention.

Thank you to the units that have submitted their reports. Again, good luck and see you in August!

DAV Volunteer for Veterans Program

Volunteer for Veterans encourages veterans to post personal volunteer opportunities and engage with volunteers in their area. Veterans can request assistance with projects such as yard work, home repairs, grocery shopping, and more. Volunteers can then create a profile with Volunteer for Veterans and sign up for opportunities in their area. To sign up, visit <https://dav.force.com/volunteerforveterans/s/> and click on login/sign up. You do not need to be a DAV or Auxiliary member to participate.

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

Ellen Timmerman,
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
www.davauxiliary.org



“Together, we can get it done!”

New Auxiliary Units!



Darlington Co. #72

Darlington, South Carolina
Chartered May 15, 2019

Bay Area #112

Valparaiso, Florida
Chartered May 17, 2019

National Convention Tentative Agenda – Subject to Change

8/1 - Auxiliary NEC Meeting	8/5 - Auxiliary Business Session
8/2 - District Meetings	8/5 - Forget-Me-Not Luncheon
8/3 - Joint Opening Session	8/5 - Fun Night
8/3 - Auxiliary Opening Session	8/6 - Auxiliary Final Business Session
8/3 - National Commander's Reception	8/6 - Auxiliary NEC Meeting
8/4 - Memorial Service	8/6 - Introduction of National Officers and Dinner
8/4 - Convention Committee Meetings	

[Online registration](#) is now available for national convention in Orlando, Florida. Registration is \$25 per person 18 years of age and older. Attendees under 18 are not required to pay; however, they are required to register so they can be admitted to events. Those utilizing online registration will be able to pick up their convention bag and badge from will call. Onsite registration is available for those who do not wish to pre-register. See you in Orlando!

Reminders

- ⇒ National headquarters should be notified **immediately** when unit or state department banking information changes. Failure to notify our office in a timely manner will result in the hold of membership distribution (if any).
- ⇒ Units experiencing difficulties, whether it be electing officers, establishing a quorum, or participation concerns, should notify their respective **state department** as soon as possible.
- ⇒ Commanders, Senior Vice Commanders, and Adjutants are authorized to generate membership listings through the membership system and/or submit a request in writing to national headquarters. Keep in mind these reports contain personal information (including junior members) and are to be safeguarded at all times and not freely distributed.