

# DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News

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



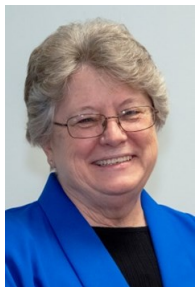
Happy birthday,  
America!



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## From the Desk of Ellen Timmerman, National Commander



Congratulations to all of the newly elected officers of the DAV Auxiliary State Departments and the Units, I hope all of you have a great year. If you read and follow our constitution and bylaws, you should have no problems at all. If you have any questions, please follow the chain of command—unit to state, and state to national. All of us have things that come up that we're not sure exactly what to do, but there is always help if you ask for it. Just don't go off on your own and make a decision that does not align with the bylaws. There will always be new and better ways to do things, so don't be afraid of changes, we need them to grow and stay effective.

I want to thank all of you for the honor and privilege of serving as the DAV Auxiliary National Commander this past year. It has been a great experience for me. I want to thank the staff at DAV Auxiliary National Headquarters, especially National Adjutant Pat Kemper. Without them there is no way any of this could be done.

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

## Upcoming Changes to the Headquarters News Publication

The practice of mailing the monthly newsletter to unit and state department adjutants has been discontinued. Instead, the newsletter will be available for download from the DAV Auxiliary's website. Everyone has access to this informative newsletter and we urge all members to read this important communication.

How can I get the newsletter????

- Watch for availability postings on the DAV Auxiliary Facebook Page with a link directing you to the newsletter.
- Go to [www.davauxiliary.org](http://www.davauxiliary.org) and select the News and Events tab and look for the latest newsletter edition under the News tab.
- Request email delivery directly to your inbox by sending your email address to [dava@dav.org](mailto:dava@dav.org).
- A \$10 yearly subscription will assure the mailing of the newsletter to your mailbox.

### Headquarters News Yearly Subscription Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Subscription is for ☐ myself or ☐ unit \_\_\_\_\_

*Unit Name and Number*

Make \$10.00 check/money order payable to: DAV Auxiliary

Remit to: DAV Auxiliary, 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076

## Junior Activities by Icilda Marley, National Junior Activities Chairman



Thank you to the Units who sent in their year-end reports. Documenting activities is very important. They have had a great year doing many things to honor Veterans.

Judging reports is always tough. Volunteerism in any way is honorable and self-satisfying. I am proud to be involved with such selfless young people. I am hoping all the Juniors become active life members. Teaching them the importance of volunteerism, patriotism, and humility are virtues they will carry into adulthood.

Safe travels to all planning to attend the DAV/DAV Auxiliary National Convention in Orlando. Good health and God bless you all.

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.

## Caregiver Initiative Program by Melissa Pierce, National Caregiver Initiative Chairman

In May I was asked to host an informational table for the DAV Auxiliary at the Veterans Casting Away Disabilities event at Lake Rathbun. This is a fishing event for Veterans in the VISN 23 area. I have never had a chance to get over to this event so I wasn't quite sure what to expect.

I must say it was pretty amazing! I was able to sit and talk one-on-one with many of the Caregivers (and even some of the Veterans). They shared stories of life with their Veterans and how events like this impact them. They talked about the day-to-day stress that can sometimes occur and the challenges they face. They shared how they cope with these stresses and challenges and the friends that have been made over the years. They talked about how thankful they were for these events, not only for the chance to get their Veterans out and active, but how much they appreciate the special activities aimed just for the Caregivers.

I've heard the stories before, but they still never cease to amaze me. What some of these Caregivers go through day in and day out is simply amazing. It takes a special person who has great love and dedication in their hearts. While some could choose to walk away or possibly put someone into assisted care, these strong Caregivers have chosen to stay and show their support. Whether they have a blind Veteran, an amputee, a Veteran with a TBI or PTSD, they just keep going and do what they have to do for the Veteran.

While my main goal for the day was to educate the Caregivers about the DAV Auxiliary (and maybe sign some new members up), it turned into so much more. It has proven to me once again that we, the DAV Auxiliary, have a mission. Our mission is to help these Caregivers; ease a little of the burden, be a shoulder to lean on, offer a moment of respite, whatever we can.

"When you reach out to others in need, when you reach out to the world, you really do have a satisfying life by helping others." ~Laura Bush

## Membership Incentive Winners

**Congratulations to Kathy Dunham, Texas Unit 22, and Billie Schultz, Alabama Unit 12!** Their names were drawn to receive \$300 cash each for recruiting one new paid senior member between April 1 and June 30.

**Congratulations to Kathy Dunham, Texas Unit 22!** Her name was drawn to receive \$50 cash for recruiting one new junior life member with a \$20 down payment between April 1 and June 30.

Units recruiting at least 15 new paid members by June 30 were entered into a drawing to win one of two \$300 cash awards for the unit. The winning units will be announced at national convention. Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2018-2019 membership incentives!

## Legislative by Darlene Spence, National Legislative Chairman

Although you may not be a history buff, I hope you enjoy this bit of government and legislative history related to support of our Veterans from the “beginning.” The roots of Veteran assistance programs can officially be traced back to 1636. That’s when the Plymouth Colony Pilgrims passed a law stating that disabled soldiers would be supported by the colony. No getting Bills passed back then; they went straight to the law!

In 1776 the Continental Congress encouraged men to enlist in the Revolutionary War by providing pensions to disabled soldiers. (One would think this was possibly a form of governmental bribery). However, in 1789 the new US government did it their way and passed legislation ensuring pensions for all disabled Veterans of the Revolutionary War.

Moving on to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the first domiciliary and medical facility for Veterans was authorized by the federal government in 1811. When the Civil War ended, there were 1.9 million Union Veterans! Therefore, in 1865, Congress authorized the National Asylum Of Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, a system of residences for disabled and indigent Veterans. Additionally, during this century the nation’s Veterans assistance program was expanded to include benefits and pensions not only for Veterans, but for their widows and dependents.

Prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century laws, congressional authorization and legislative activities were enacted in support of our Veterans and their families. The 20<sup>th</sup> century brought with it many more legislative activities as well as formation of the DAV in September 1920. All legislative and DAV activities were, and still are directed toward improving the lives of our Veterans and their families.

We bring an end to this “Beginning,” with what history calls the “crowning achievement” of the 1922 DAV Convention. It was formation of the DAV Auxiliary whose focus was to “provide services to the families of veterans disabled during war time service to our country.”

Today, and moving forward, we the DAV and DAVA working as one team, must continue to stay focused and committed to our mission. Remaining committed and continuing to work towards making a difference in the lives of our Veterans and their families should remain a personal goal for each of us. As Arthur Ash said, **“Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.”**

Thank you for supporting the DAV Legislative Program and for supporting me as your National DAVA Legislative Chairman this past year. Additionally, special thanks is given to the men and women who serve and have served our country, allowing us to have the freedom we enjoy today.

God Bless! See you in Orlando!

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## VAVS by Melissa Pierce, National VAVS Chairman

I recently read a post on Facebook regarding the soldiers who stand guard the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. These soldiers live a life based on commitment and dedication to their mission. They commit a minimum of two years to this assignment. They dedicate free time to educating themselves regarding notable people buried at Arlington. They commit to a life of anything that would disgrace the position or the tomb. They are dedicated to having a clean, wrinkle free appearance. It takes a very special person for this task.

As Auxiliary members we are also committed and dedicated to our mission. When we joined we knew we wanted to help and made that commitment to Veterans and their families. When we support our VA Voluntary Service program we continue this dedication to Veterans. We drive the DAV vans day in and day out, ensuring Veterans reach their appointments. We commit to help with Bingo. We dedicate time to special events. We commit to raise funds to support VAVS programs and services. We dedicate time donating needed items. We make coffee and greet Veterans. We show our commitment and dedication every chance we get.

While we may never achieve the level of commitment and dedication of the guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, it is a goal worth striving for. We need to continue our commitment to the Auxiliary mission and dedicate ourselves to our Veterans and our VA Voluntary Service programs.

“The only limit to your impact is your imagination and commitment.” ~Anthony Robbins

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



We have officially entered  
a new membership year!  
We look forward to seeing  
all of the accomplish-  
ments of our units and  
state departments in 2019  
-2020!

Stay tuned for the exciting  
membership incentives  
that will be announced  
during national fall confer-  
ence in September.



### **Constitution and Bylaws**

The National Constitution  
and Bylaws as amended at  
the 2018 national conven-  
tion are no longer available  
for purchase. Approved  
amendments during the  
2019 national convention  
will be implemented in a  
revised version that will be  
available in early fall.

An electronic version of the  
2018 bylaws are available  
[online](#).

## **DAV AUXILIARY**

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**“Together, we can get it done!”**

## **Reminders**

- ⇒ Unit Commanders should **not** sign blank checks. Be a good steward of Auxiliary funds and help reduce the risk of misappropriation. Checks should only be signed on properly completed vouchers with receipts attached.
- ⇒ New member applications **require** a date of birth. If applications do not include a date of birth, they will be returned. Because membership rates are determined by age, we do not have a way to process applications without the information.
- ⇒ The room block for the DAV Auxiliary National Fall Conference is now full. Members are encouraged to contact nearby hotels to determine if accommodations are available, and to continue to contact the Embassy Suites Lexington to see if there have been cancellations. If you already have a room reserved and need to cancel your reservation, please contact our office first at 877-426-2838, option 8. We look forward to seeing you all in Lexington.
- ⇒ Units and state departments—do not forget to complete your 2018 990 as warranted by income! These filings are due no later than November 15, 2019. Failure to file for three consecutive years will result in the IRS revocation of your tax exempt status. If you have problems filing, please contact national headquarters.

## **2019 National Fall Conference**

**Wednesday, September 25 –**

3:00 pm – 6:00 pm – Registration

**Thursday, September 26 –**

8:00 am – 5:00 pm – Registration

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm – Health and Wellness Fair

4:00 pm – NEC Meeting

7:00 pm – Business Session

**Friday, September 27 –**

8:00 am – 12:00 pm – Registration

9:00 am – 11:30 am – Business Session

1:00 pm – 3:30 pm – Business Session

6:30 pm – Hospitality Night

**Saturday, September 28 –**

9:00 am – 12:00 pm – Business Session

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm – Fun Night

**Registration - \$65**

(for all attending, including guests)

Includes:

- Registration bag
- Fall Conference Booklet
- Fall Conference Flash Drive
- Ticket to the Friday evening Dinner
- Saturday evening Fun Night

