

DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News

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



*"Unity is strength...
when there is team-
work and collabora-
tion, wonderful things
can be achieved."*

~Mattie Stepanek



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Diane Franz Elected National Commander

Diane Franz was elected National Commander of the DAV Auxiliary at the 2019 National Convention in Orlando, Florida.

Ms. Franz joined the DAV Auxiliary as a senior life member in 1995. Her membership in DAV Auxiliary began as a Junior member in Erie, PA, through her father, who was 100% disabled. Her father was a Corporal in the US Army and was stationed in Washington, DC, attached to the Joint Chiefs of Staff as an MP. His disability was a result of a meeting that took place in Canada. Both her parents were very active in DAV and DAV Auxiliary, holding elected and appointed offices.

Diane is a life member of Central Florida Unit 16, and has served in many Unit capacities, presently serving as Unit Treasurer. She coordinates monthly bingo and birthday parties at the VA CLC at Lake Nona. At the state level, Diane was elected to the office of 3rd Jr. Vice Commander and advanced through the chairs, serving as State Commander as well as holding many appointed positions. She currently serves as the State Adjutant and is also the VAVS Representative at the Orlando VA Medical Center. On the national level, Diane has served on the committees of History Book, Legislative, Community Service, Nominating, and Mae Holmes. She has held the positions of 7th District NEC and Alternate NEC and was elected to the office of National 3rd Jr. Vice Commander, advancing through the chairs to her current position as National Commander.

Ms. Franz is actively involved in the NJROTC at Cypress Creek High School as coordinator of the Annual Awards give at the Military Ball, a position she has held since 1995. She is a graduate of Fairview High School and attended Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and majored in nursing with a minor in Med-Tech.

Diane married her late husband Paul in the fall of 1972. They have one son, Mark Ryan. Mark is married to Sharon, and together they have two sons, Owen and Wyatt. All are members of DAV Auxiliary.



2019-2020 National Officers

Announcing the newly elected national officers:

Senior Vice Commander & Mae Holmes Chm.—Lynn Prosser, South Carolina
1st Jr. Vice Commander & Membership Chm.—Darlene Spence, Texas
2nd Jr. Vice Cmdr. & Legislative Chm.—Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, California
3rd Jr. Vice Commander & Americanism Chm.—AnnMarie Hurley, Massachusetts
4th Jr. Vice Commander & Community Service Chm.—Linda Gerke, Missouri
National Judge Advocate—Paula Raymond, Illinois

National Commander Craig Diane Franz made the following national appointments with the approval of the National Executive Committee:

National Assistant Adjutant—Bunny Clos, Kentucky

Thursday Night,
September 26,
is Patriotic Night!
Wear your
red, white and blue
to the evening
business session!!

Junior Activities by Darlene Hanneman, National Junior Activities Chairman

Attention all grandparents and parents of the DAVA. Please sign up your children and grandchildren to become Junior members of a GREAT organization. Start making your Units family friendly. Do you have problems with not knowing what to buy for birthday, or holiday gifts? Buy a membership. Our Junior members are an important part of the DAVA family. The events that you do within your Unit have places for Juniors to help. Include them and have family time while doing your activities.

Fall ideas: a hat and glove drive, a coat drive, a food drive or even school supplies drive. Assist in social events at local nursing homes, VA Medical Centers, parades, flag ceremonies, Forget-Me-Not drives. Keep in mind that they can help with the holidays coming up with Labor Day, Veteran's Day, Halloween parades and parties, and Thanksgiving events.

Stay in-touch with me about the incredible events that you are doing, so that we can share ideas. Please have the Juniors in your unit contact me through National headquarters at E-mail: dava@davmail.org or Website: davauxiliary.org or call 859.441.7300. You can also send information to: DAV Auxiliary 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076.

Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit by Lynn Helms Prosser, National Chairman

The DAV/DAVA National Convention in Orlando, Fl., was magnificent, and the Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel and Staff were amazing. I want to thank our National Staff, Convention Chairman and everyone that worked so diligently to make our convention successful in all areas. Congratulations to all elected National Officers, State Officers and Chapter and Unit Officers that will lead our Organizations for 2019 -2020. With each new year, we face many critical issues nationwide that affect our goals and core mission: "Empowering" our veterans and their families to obtain benefits, support and "lead high quality lives with respect and dignity." However, by joining our forces and working together, we will exceed our goals and fulfill our mission.

I am honored to serve as your National Senior Vice Commander and Chairman of DAVA Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit Program. Every Unit should already be logging activities of members including hours, mileage, monies and special events. Please encourage all members to keep a monthly calendar and turn them in at each regular scheduled meeting or mail their list to the Unit Adjutant. Don't forget your juniors' activities at church, school and in their communities.

All 2019-2020 report forms will be available in the National Fall Conference book. Due to possible changes made, please use only the new forms that are labeled 2019-2020 for next years' reports. The new forms will also be available on the DAVA website. Unit and State Officers should be familiar with the reports and provide time at meetings to explain what activities and events are reported on each program. The Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit report is an accumulation of the other reports and it is mandatory that ALL Units submit it to National Headquarters, State Departments and Program Chairman each year. This report provides valuable information that supports the numerous volunteer services that Auxiliary members are donating on an annual basis for veterans, their families and in their communities.

We hope to see you at the National Fall Conference for comradeship, fun, and educational programs. As always, there will plenty of open forums to ask questions, share ideas, and collect important information to take back to your units. The DAVA Constitution and Bylaw books will contain numerous changes made during the National Convention and we advise all members to obtain a copy and get familiar with rules and regulations.

I look forward to serving you this year. May God bless our veterans, our military, their families and we may we always stay "America Strong".

National Convention Donations:

Caregiver Initiative Program—\$3,511.00
General Fund—\$2,500.00
Disaster Relief Fund—\$1,000.00
Education Program—\$1,375.00

Winter Sports Clinic—\$250.00
Camp Corral—\$700.00
Service Fund—\$1,725.00

Thank you for your generosity!

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



Headquarters News

As a reminder, 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.

Email addresses are still being accepted for those who wish to have the publication emailed directly to your inbox. Please send emails to dava@dav.org.

A \$10 yearly subscription is also available and will assure the mailing of the newsletter to your mailbox.

DAV AUXILIARY

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"Unity"

Important Constitution and Bylaw Amendments

There were significant changes to the National Constitution and Bylaws approved at the National Convention. In mid-August, each unit Adjutant received a ballot regarding a ratification of National Constitution, Page N-2, Article III. This ratification adds a new section that allows any person who served in the armed forces of the United States, that was not dishonorably discharged or separated from service and is not otherwise eligible for membership in DAV, to be eligible for membership in DAV Auxiliary. Once we have received 3/4 approval from active units, the ratification will be approved. If you have not done so, please vote on this important ballot at your next business meeting and return it to national headquarters as soon as possible.

Other important Bylaw amendments include:

- Changing the Service/Support Program to the National Auxiliary Service Program
- Changing the Education Scholarship Fund to the National Auxiliary Education Program
- Eliminating tiered life membership amounts effective January 1, 2020.
- Address cash withdrawals of state or unit funds by bank signers

We anticipate that these changes will be beneficial for Units and State Departments. The availability of updated Constitution and Bylaw books will be announced in a future edition of the Headquarters News and other social media venues. The [online version](#) of the Constitution and Bylaws has been updated to reflect the aforementioned changes.

Membership Rate Change

Effective January 1, 2020, all members, regardless of age, will pay a flat rate of \$250 for life membership in DAV Auxiliary. Persons under the age of 18 and those 80 years of age and older will still be eligible for complimentary memberships.

Anyone who joins DAV Auxiliary before January 1, 2020, will pay the current appropriate rate based on their age at the time of submitting an application. Applications received at National Headquarters or that are postmarked on or before December 31, 2019, will be accepted at the current rates. Membership applications will be updated to reflect this change, and old paper applications should be discarded after December 31, 2019. If you have any questions please contact our office.

We encourage you to share this information with units and recruiters.