# 1311 Auxiliary

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



"Unity is strength...
when there is teamwork and collaboration, 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 Chairmen and Appointees

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

National Chaplain—Aura-Lee Nicodemus, New Hampshire

History Chairman—Harold Holloway, Florida

Interim Constitution & Bylaws Committee—Judy Steinhouse, Chairman, North Dakota;

Delores Roussey, Florida; Sylvia Heath, Maine

Junior Activities—Darlene Hanneman, Ohio

Sgt. At Arms—Theresa Grabowski, New York

VAVS Representative—Melissa Pierce, Iowa

VAVS Deputy Representative—Velma Steinman, Missouri

VAVS Deputy Representative—Ann Glende, Kentucky

Caregiver Initiative Program Chairman – Melissa Pierce, Iowa

National Adjutant—Pat Kemper, Kentucky

National Assistant Adjutant—Bunny Clos, Kentucky

## Community Service by Linda Gerke, National Community Service Chairman

Community service is important for many reasons. One of my favorite things about community service is that there are opportunities and choices right in your very neighborhood. You can volunteer for something you really believe in and have an interest in, and can volunteer as much or as little as you'd like.

Service to the public is such an integral part of any society. Humans are social animals and we need to interact with those around us to keep our lives fulfilling. Community service brings people together and engages them for a common cause and also teaches people about compassion and not to just live for one's self and serve only their needs. Involving yourself in community service makes you an active member of the community and you can help create an impact on your community and society at large. It also creates a great platform for our younger generations to learn valuable life lessons.

People involving themselves in helping their communities are able to experience things that they might not have been exposed to in any other walk of life. They are able to see what their personal attributes and talents are helpful for and how it works in a social environment. They discover things about themselves and others around them; for example, people might find that they can handle stressful situations without breaking down.

It teaches a lot of valuable lessons through the number of odd tasks that one does. Skills like leadership, communication, teamwork and so on are also inculcated in people when they involve themselves in service of others. People tend to get a more positive outlook on life as a whole as helping those less fortunate, gives them a good conscience and makes them respect what they have and how fortunate they are.

It is known to make people happier by not only leaving you satisfied because of the help that they provide but also because through their service people meet like-minded people and this helps them create unique bonds that satisfy their social needs.

#### 2019 National Fall Conference

Tentative Agenda Subject to Change

9/25 - Registration
9/26 - Registration
9/26 - Health and Wellness Fair
9/27 - Business Session
9/26 - NEC Meeting
9/28 - Business Session

9/26 - Business Session 9/28 - Reception for Registered Attendees

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: <a href="mailto:dava@davmail.org">dava@davmail.org</a> or Website: <a href="mailto:dava@davmail.org">dava@davmail.org</a> or Website: <a href="mailto:dava@davmail.org">dava@davmail.org</a> 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**

**Diane Franz,**National Commander

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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 other wise 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 <u>online version</u> 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.