

# DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News



3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076 | February 2020



## Quota Achieved!

Congratulations to the following State Departments for making 2019-2020 Quota!

Indiana  
Louisiana  
Massachusetts  
Minnesota  
Utah  
Vermont

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## From the Desk of National Commander Diane Franz

Later this month I will have the privilege of laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. It will be an honor to represent the members of the Auxiliary at this event. During the time at the DAV Mid-Winter Conference, DAV National Commander Stephen Whitehead will be addressing the concerns of our veterans before the Joint House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee. I will be near him showing our support for the legislation that needs the attention of our elected officials.



It's never too early to start gathering the information of all the volunteer hours and projects that your unit has done this year. The program reports are available on the Auxiliary's website. You can download them to your computer and then fill them out or just print them to fill out manually. Our Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit Report reinforces our voices on, and service to, our veterans and their families. Please make sure you complete this form. Make sure you are using the current 2019-2020 forms, as there have been changes in the last few years. Remember, you do not have to make quota to qualify for judging for the Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit award.

In unity with DAV chapters and DAVA units, we can accomplish all our goals, in all our programs, and our mission "Making a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families."

## National Commander Diane Franz to Lay Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns



National Commander Diane Franz will represent the DAV Auxiliary in a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery on Saturday, February 22, 2020, at 10:15 a.m.

If you are planning to attend the DAV Legislative Mid-Winter Conference or will be in the area on that date, you are welcome to attend.

## Membership Ratification Approved

The amendment to the DAV Auxiliary constitution regarding membership eligibility, as approved by the 2019 national convention delegates, has achieved ratification. We appreciate the efforts of the unit leaders for addressing this critical issue with the unit body. As stated previously, this section was overlooked during the 2010 major eligibility revision and we are pleased that the oversight has been rectified.

Article III – Eligibility for Membership, Section 2, now reads: Any person who has served in the armed forces of the United States of America, who has not been dishonorably discharged or separated from such service, and who is not otherwise eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans, is eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

## Martha Maurine Ishmeal Pederson—Past National Commander



DAV Auxiliary Past National Commander Martha Maurine Ishmael Pederson of Kansas City, Missouri, passed away October 26, 2019. Maurine, as she was known to her Auxiliary family, joined the organization in 1935 through her father, Clifton Ishmael, a WW I veteran. She later married WW II veteran Oswald Pederson and raised three children. Her mother, Helen Ishmael, served as the organization's Past National Commander in 1956-57.

Following in her mother's footsteps, Maurine was elected to the organization's highest office on July 20, 1979, serving the DAV Auxiliary with pride and dignity. As we mourn her passing, we admire her dedicated service.

## Junior Activities by Darlene Hanneman, National Junior Activities Chairman

Ahhh! February!!! It can get cold, snowy, and downright nasty out there!!! Enjoy the New Year and keep those Juniors busy with helping the DAVA!!! Ask your Juniors if they made resolutions last year? Do they even know what resolutions are? Did any of them keep them for 2019? Did they make resolutions for 2020? Let your Juniors conduct their own unscientific research and see how the resolutions worked out for the Unit members. My resolutions fall under the "I hope to be able to help the great, honest, happy people that I know as friends and family and that I hope to be true to myself." I wish the same to you. Be true to yourselves. Be happy. Be kind and laugh as much as you can and always, always, always, love your God, and family, and country. Happy New Year Everyone!



Now down to business. It is time to dust off the paperwork. Specifically, the "Junior Activities Report for 2019-2020, The DAVA Junior Award Questionnaire and the Junior Unit History Book Guideline." These papers can be found online. Each paper needs to be reviewed. "Junior Activities Report for 2019-2020" needs checked to see what you have done for this year and what NEEDS to be done. Make sure you are putting down the hours and the activities for each of the categories. Best to keep a file, folder or notebook on the categories. Pictures are GREAT! "The DAVA Junior Award Questionnaire" needs to be passed out to Juniors that might be interested. There are lots of people involved in helping the Junior to do the paperwork so GET STARTED! Pictures are GOOD! The time will go by TOOOOO fast. Then the Unit has the "Junior Unit History Book." This is a GREAT way to have the Juniors involved at meetings and helping to do the pages for a HISTORY BOOK. Pictures are a must! A Senior member who is good at Scrap Booking can really help and all of the Juniors can have input into the creation of a Local Unit History Book. Please make sure they share the book with the local DAV and the Unit DAVA. Enjoy your February and Helping Other Veterans and their families.

## Membership Rate Change

As a reminder, 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.

Newly revised brochures and applications are now available by contacting national headquarters at 877-426-2838, option 8, or email [dava@dav.org](mailto:dava@dav.org). It is important that recruiters are utilizing the new material so correct information is given to potential members. The revised application is also available [online](#) for download.

DAV Auxiliary also offers flexible auto withdrawals on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis from a debit or credit card using an [online application](#). This safe and secure option is great for recruiting without the worry about paper applications.

## DAV Auxiliary Education Program Expansion

In addition to the Education Scholarship Program, the National Education Committee has developed the **Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Vocational/Training Assistance Program**, a course reimbursement program for disabled veterans as well as their spouses and children. Below you will find information regarding this exciting new program.

**Purpose:** Fulfilling DAV Auxiliary's ongoing commitment to serving the educational needs of those we serve by providing financial assistance, based on available program funds, to ill and injured veterans and their immediate family members seeking education opportunities at educational facilities other than accredited colleges/universities. Example: Trade schools, career enhancement training, skill improvement, personal development, etc.

**Eligibility:** Disabled veteran, their spouse or child.

**Reimbursement Limitations:** Program funding shall be determined and allotted annually by the DAV Auxiliary National Finance Committee. Assistance shall be determined and granted at the discretion of the National Education Program Committee.

- Consideration may be given to registration fees, lab fees, and books.
- Assistance does not include parking, transportation, meals, or lodging.

**Requirements:** Advance submission of a completed DAV Auxiliary Vocational/Training assistance application with the following included:

- Name/address of school/facility.
- Course to be taken, including cost.
- Reason for taking the course and how it will enhance personal development for workplace skills or career advancement.
- Applicant must acknowledge that they did not otherwise receive any other free financial assistance (such as scholarships, GI Bills, and education grants) that when combined with this benefit would result in an overpayment of the original course cost.

### Financial Assistance Process:

- The DAV Auxiliary Education Program Committee shall: determine fund availability (funds are allotted per calendar year); review the Vocational/Training assistance application; and determine approval status and amount granted. Maximum reimbursement is \$500.
- Applicants will be notified of the committee's approval decision.
- Within 60 days of course completion, pre-approved recipients will submit verification of course taken with proof of payment and course completion with a "C" or better grade (or a pass for course that is graded on a pass/fail basis or equivalent, thereof, at the discretion of the scholarship committee) dated within 60 days after course completion.
- Recipients will be required to complete a W-9 for check issuance purposes.

Additional information, including an application for reimbursement, can be found on the DAV Auxiliary [website](#). If you have questions please contact national headquarters.

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## Education Scholarship Applications

The 2020 DAV Auxiliary Education Scholarship applications are being accepted and must have a postmark date of March 27, 2020. Applicants are not required to be a member of DAV Auxiliary to be eligible, but must be at least a high school senior and have a GPA of at least 2.5. Additional information is [available online](#).

## Junior Member Spotlight

For her 8<sup>th</sup> grade Cultural Fair project, Jessica S., a California Unit 6 junior member, chose to focus on the most interesting person she knew. Mickey Ganitch is a 100-year-old Pearl Harbor survivor who Jessica has known since her parents joined DAV and DAV Auxiliary many years ago.

While interviewing Mickey, Jessica asked questions about his family, his childhood, and his military service. She learned so much! Mickey is the 12<sup>th</sup> of 14 children. He joined the Navy on January 21, 1941, and served on the USS Pennsylvania. Jessica also learned about what life was like aboard the ship.

Jessica took all the information she learned about Mickey and created a poster. Over 200 students presented their projects one evening in the school cafeteria. Jessica even received extra credit for having Mickey on hand to answer questions! Now, that is an impressive show and tell!

As we draw attention to the importance of working with our junior members, Jessica is another example of how participation in DAV Auxiliary can influence and educate the impressionable youth of our nation. With effective leadership and by example, they learn the principles of patriotism, compassion, and volunteerism, all values they will carry with them throughout their lives. We are proud of Jessica and all our DAV Auxiliary Junior members! And, we offer our heartfelt appreciation to WW II veteran and Pearl Harbor survivor Mr. Michael (Mickey) Ganitch!



## 2020 National Convention

The 2020 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention will be held August 1-4, 2020, at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas, Texas, to kick off DAV's centennial celebration. Special room rates at the Hilton Anatole are \$149 per night, single or double occupancy, plus taxes. Additional hotel information is available by calling 800-445-8667. Be sure to request the DAV room block.

The DAV Auxiliary will kick-off the convention with an NEC meeting on the evening of Thursday, July 30. District meetings will be held the morning of July 31. When making your reservations you'll want to take these meeting times into account.

In the coming months, unit Adjutants will receive additional information and a delegate/alternate form. Please return the form to our office as soon as possible and watch for future communications regarding the availability of pre-registration. We look forward to seeing you all at National Convention.

### 2020 National Convention Tentative Agenda

7/30 - Registration	8/1 - National Commander's Reception
7/30 - Auxiliary NEC Meeting	8/2 - Memorial Service
7/31 - Registration	8/2 - Auxiliary Convention Committee Meetings
7/31 - District Meetings	8/2 - Department Receptions
7/31 - Auxiliary Opening Session Rehearsal	8/3 - Auxiliary Second Business Session
7/31 - NEC Memorial Service Rehearsal	8/3 - Forget-Me-Not Luncheon
7/31 - Special Reception (TBD)	8/3 - Fun Night
8/1 - Registration	8/4 - Auxiliary Final Business Session
8/1 - Joint Opening Session	8/4 - Auxiliary NEC Meeting
8/1 - Auxiliary Opening Session	8/4 - Introduction of National Officers and Dinner

## Americanism by AnnMarie Hurley, National Americanism Chairman

Today continues my previous article giving examples of patriotism that parents should teach their children. Following are excerpts from an online article written by social studies teachers Amy Van Eeuwen and Lori Langenderfer from Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' West Middle School **who teach about America.**

1. **Teaching kids about government:** "All kids should know how our government works....Teach that, 'We have three branches,' and kids should know 'Who makes laws? (What are) the rules of the Supreme Court?'" *For information, you can Google info or go to a local politician's open meeting or set up a visit and meet with the politician or the staff.*
2. **Our responsibilities as citizens:** "Being an active and involved citizen is the best way to support our country and keep it strong," adds 5th grade teacher Monica McCauley. "This is a government for the people and 'by the people,' and we need to understand that our involvement is crucial to our success as a nation."
3. **Learn about People and places significant to our nation's history:** "There are people who contributed to our country in various ways, and locations families can still visit that are significant to America's story - all of which are important for kids to learn about...You can make this history come to life by taking the kids to a local history museum...or on a vacation to an area like the District of Columbia or Boston."
4. **Appreciating our diversity:** Michelle Ingraham, a fourth-grade teacher, emphasizes the importance of the diversity of our country. "America is the world's melting pot. Our immigrants brought much more than suitcases - they brought their culture and traditions. That is what makes our country what it is today."
5. **That we're not perfect:** "Lastly? Knowing, we have a history that isn't perfect, but we can continue to work toward everyone (being) equal now...eighth graders learn about the Native Americans in America, Reconstruction Era and Jim Crow laws. These may be tough conversations, and 'you may decide to have them with kids as they get older,' but Langenderfer suggests, 'You have to put it in perspective and in context.' Teach kids about these moments of our country's history while still talking about why they were not OK."

In essence, "...the overarching values we should instill in our children that can contribute to making our country great—the lessons of love, responsibility and community," says 4th grade-teacher Marisa Kalmus. **"These three values are integral in making our country a stronger, safer place to live."**

I've been blessed with 3 daughters and 2 grandchildren, all of whom have grown up as part of the DAV/ DAVA community. My grandson proudly came home from his first day of school in the first grade reciting the Pledge of Allegiance for us. He was never political, but joined the Navy after high school and was a navigator on a destroyer by the age of 19. My granddaughter is very political and will happily give you her views. She plans on studying political science when she goes to college in a few years. Each of our children and grandchildren will forge their own path in reaching their American dream, but we must give them the tools to prepare them and guide them as they take on the journey.



"The American flag is the symbol of our freedom, national pride and history." ~Mike Fitzpatrick

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



### New Auxiliary Units!



Suwannee Mem. #126  
Live Oaks, Florida  
Chartered Jan. 8, 2020  
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WF Reardon #57  
Taunton, Massachusetts  
Chartered Jan. 8, 2020  
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Salem #6  
Salem, Oregon  
Chartered Jan. 10, 2020  
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### Share Your News!

Send photos of your DAV Auxiliary juniors in action to [dava@dav.org](mailto:dava@dav.org). Please include a description of the activity and the names of the individuals in the pictures.

## DAV AUXILIARY

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“Unity”

### Save the Date:

2020 National Convention  
August 1—4, 2020  
Hilton Anatole  
2201 Stemmons Freeway  
Dallas, TX 75207  
Telephone: 800-445-8667

\$149 Single/Double

*The Auxiliary NEC meeting will be held on Thursday, July 30, and the District meetings will be Friday, July 31. Please plan accordingly.*

**Make your reservations early to avoid sell out!**

### Save the Date:

2020 National Fall Conference  
October 1—3, 2020  
DoubleTree by Hilton, Lawrenceburg  
51 Walnut St.  
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025  
Telephone: 812.539.8888

\$129 Single/Double  
\$139 Triple; \$149 Quad

All rates will include complimentary breakfast the mornings of Thursday, Friday, and Saturday only. Free garage parking.

**Make your reservations early to avoid sell out!**

## Reminders

- 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 being accepted for those who wish to have the publication emailed directly to their inbox. Please send emails to [dava@dav.org](mailto:dava@dav.org). A \$10 yearly subscription is also available and will assure the mailing of the newsletter to your mailbox.
- Annual financial reports were due September 30, 2019. If your unit or state department has not completed the report, it must be done as soon as possible to avoid a hold status from being placed.
- The newly revised DAV Auxiliary Constitution and Bylaw books are now available! Please remember the bylaw books change from year to year, and members are encouraged to always have the most recent copy available for questions or concerns. The books are \$2.00 each, plus shipping and handling. To place an order, visit [www.davstore.org](http://www.davstore.org) or call 1-800-468-4332.