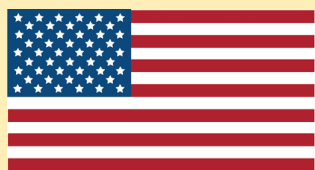


DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News

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



Fly your Flag!

"You're the emblem
of the land I love, the
home of the free and
the brave."

-George M. Cohan

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From the Desk of National Commander Diane Franz

Here we are in August already. Many states are still in the midst of the COVID 19 pandemic, but that does not mean we can forego our mission. Many units have resumed meetings in adherence with the guidelines set in their areas. Unit elections are to be held according to the Constitution and Bylaws, making sure all life members, are notified 10 days prior to elections (page U-2, Article VI). In order to seek an office or vote in unit elections, members must be in good standing. The annual financial reports must also be completed by the Unit Treasurer and submitted to the audit committee along with all records and a copy of the acknowledgement of filing Form 990-N e-Postcard or the appropriate 990 form according to gross income.

Voting in the primary and general elections must be promoted by our members. Get to know the candidates that will support bills that will benefit veterans and will listen and have concern for our requests to vote for such legislation. If you have not already signed up for CAN on the website DAV.org, please take a moment to do so. This is an extremely important element to get our voices heard by our elected officials.

Share the information you receive in the Headquarter News to other members to stay current and informed. Remember, a lot of information now is provided electronically and online and some may not have access to the internet. Don't leave them in the dark—share, share, and share.

Even though it has been said over and over: Stay safe and I hope all are doing well.

IRS 990-N e-Postcard Reminder

In accordance with the provisions of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, most non-profit organizations with gross income receipts of less than \$50,000 must file IRS Electronic Form 990-N, also referred to as the 990-N e-Postcard. This is not a paper form and can only be filed online and can be completed for free through the IRS Charities and Non-Profit [website](#). Units with gross income receipts greater than \$50,000 must file paper IRS 990 forms.

Units and State Departments have until November 15, 2020, to complete this process. It takes only moments to file, and once accepted by the IRS no further action is required. Units that fail to file the annual 990-N e-Postcard for three consecutive years will have their tax-exempt status revoked, which could ultimately lead to unit charter revocation.

We realize that many for-profit agencies utilize IRS listings to contact filers to assist with this process. While these agencies may be reputable, they charge fees for something that can be done at no cost through a secure website. If someone in your unit cannot complete the free online form, please call our office at 877-426-2838, option 8, and a staff member will be happy to assist you with the filing. Don't throw away your tax-exempt status!

Legislative by Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, National Legislative Chairman

The world has been changed forever by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of us have been shut in our homes for months and it can be difficult to remember what life was like before the worldwide crisis.

It is imperative that Auxiliary members continue to advocate for legislation to assist disabled veterans and their families. Although other issues are attracting the public's attention, decisions continue to be made that impact our lives now and into the future. For example, on May 19, 2020, Representative TJ Cox from California's 21st District introduced The Caring for Survivors Act 2020 (H.R. 6933).

If enacted, this bill would increase dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) for surviving dependents and would lower the threshold of eligibility to allow certain survivors to receive this benefit who currently do not meet the requirements. This measure would:

- Increase the DIC rate to make it more equitable with rates provided to federal civilian employee survivors. This bill increases DIC so that the base rate of DIC is equal to 55% of the rate of compensation paid to a totally disabled veteran.
- Ease the 10-year rule for eligibility and replace it with a graduated scale of benefits that begins after five years and increases by percentage until reaching full amount at the 10-year mark. If a veteran is rated as totally disabled for five years and dies as a result of a non-service-connected cause, a survivor would be entitled to 50% of total DIC benefits. This scale continues until the 10-year threshold and the maximum amount of DIC benefit is awarded.
- Reduce the age allowed for a surviving spouse to remarry and maintain their benefits from 57 to 55, consistent with other Federal survivor programs.

When the Caring for Survivors Act 2020 becomes law, surviving spouses' lives will significantly improve. However, most Americans will not receive any benefit from the law's passage. Further, many Americans do not know someone who is a surviving spouse of a disabled veteran and who struggles to make ends meet.

Supporters of this legislation must convince the majority to allocate funds to protect a minority. It is a challenging but not impossible task. As a minority group, it is vital that we find allies who will be supportive. We do this by telling our stories. It is much harder for a legislator to vote against legislation when he or she personally knows someone whose life will be made easier by a yes vote.

The Caring for Survivors Act 2020 (H.R. 6933) was referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs in mid-June. Veterans, widows, and widowers can advocate for this bill even from home. If you have access to a computer, go to the DAV's [website](#) to learn about this important legislation. Also, share the link with family and friends. Explain to them why we need their support to protect the surviving spouses of disabled veterans.

People without computer access can be our most vocal advocates. They can make phone calls and write letters telling their personal stories about why reforms are needed to provide equitable compensation for surviving spouses of disabled veterans.

Now is the time for action! I look forward to the day The Caring for Survivors Act 2020 (H.R. 6933) is signed into law!

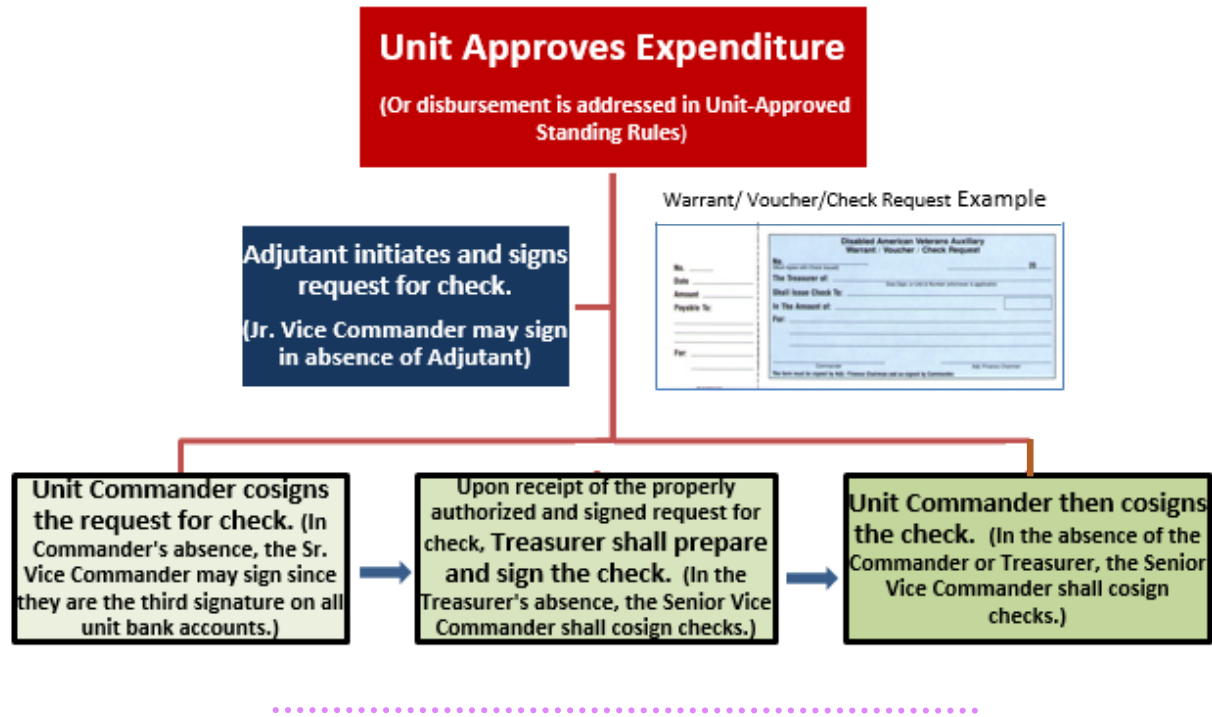
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Annual Unit Officer Elections

Many units have had to delay annual officer elections. Elections must be held when it is safe for groups to resume gatherings, but until that time, the current officers will remain in their current positions until their successors have been elected and installed.

Warrants/Vouchers/Check Requests

The national bylaws provide for the proper procedure when issuing checks from accounts. Unit funds may only be expended upon approval of unit members at a regular business meeting unless otherwise specified in the Unit Standing Rules. **Debit and/or Credit Cards may not be used!**



VAVS by Melissa Pierce, National VAVS Chairman

I stumbled across a quote by Deepak Chopra this past week, *"All great changes are preceded by chaos."* If this is true, our VAVS programs can only get better!

COVID has thrown our VA's and VAVS into chaos. Entrance to VA's has been limited, VTN programs have been suspended, volunteers sent home, and many other disruptions to our "normal volunteer routines." Our VA's are wondering how, when and some even, if, they are going to bring their volunteers back. And if they do bring them back, what new guidelines are going to be in place? If volunteers are not able to return, either by VA restrictions or volunteer choice, what virtual volunteer opportunities could be made available to them?

This is a great chance for our members and VAVS to work together and think outside the box. Could we help to develop a "phone-a-vet" program? Maybe we record "books on tape" for visually impaired? Do you play an instrument? Could you offer to give lessons virtually? Is there some other type of learning, assistance, or just socialization that we could provide virtually? If we all put our heads together, the possibilities are endless.

Another great change could come in an increase in volunteers. Now you may be asking yourself how, but think of this... How many of your members always say I'd do more if I didn't work all day? I am a stay-at-home parent so that won't really work out? Or I work a weird shift so it's not convenient to the hours the VA is open? Virtual volunteering could become a game changer. A lot of virtual opportunities can be done any time! The standard answer of volunteering not being at a convenient time could be washed away. Think about it and the impact this could have.

We have certainly had the chaos over the past few months, now let's work together and create the great change!

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



Save the Date

2021 National Convention
July 24—27, 2021
Grand Sierra Resort
2500 East Second St.
Reno, NV 89595
800-501-2651

\$105 GSR Basic Room
\$125 Summit Room

Save the Date

2021 National Fall Conference
September 30—October 2
DoubleTree by Hilton
51 Walnut St.
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025
812-539-8888

\$129 s/d; \$139 triple;
\$149 quad

Accumulation of Funds and Donations

Article XV, Section 5, of the National Constitution and Bylaws states that a unit may not accumulate funds, whether for service purposes or otherwise, in excess of three times the expenses of their last fiscal year. To determine if your unit has accumulated funds, the total unit assets (line 26) on the Annual Financial Report cannot exceed three times the unit expenses reported (line 20). Units whose accumulated funds exceed this amount must comply with the above referenced section by expending such excess within five years. The expenditure of the excess accumulated funds **must be for service purposes and cannot be expended to other 501 (c) charities**, regardless of their chartered purpose.

Units with accumulated funds are required to provide national headquarters with a unit spend-down plan, explaining how the funds will be expended over the specified time period. The plan should be revisited annually and is subject to change based on the needs of the unit, state department, or national organization and its programs.

We have an obligation to our generous donors to assure their donations will be used to support DAV and/or DAV Auxiliary programs. There are very worthy non-profit organizations; however, as a non-profit veterans' service organization, we must be conscientious stewards of the funds raised by and donated to **our** organization. The rationale being—had the donor wanted their donations to go to another non-profit group, they would have appropriated their funds to that cause. Instead, they chose our organization, making it the responsibility of our members, units, and state departments to ensure that funds collected are expended as the donor intended. Examples of acceptable donations include to the DAV Auxiliary Education or Service Program, Caregiver Initiative Program, Winter Sports Clinic, VA Medical Centers, State Veterans Homes, DAV Transportation, or the Disaster Relief Program.

Annual Financial Report

The Annual Financial Report form was mailed to unit Adjutants and is due no later than September 30, 2020. Below are a few reminders for completing the report:

- Must be completed by the unit Treasurer.
- The reporting period is July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020.
- If a line states **attach required schedule**, this should be included with the report and is a detailed description of income and/or disbursements for the appropriate line. There is no specific form for a schedule and this information can be written or typed then attached to the report.
- A bank statement for all accounts for the period ending closest to June 30, 2020, is required to verify assets.
- Bank account/s must have three authorized signers. They are the unit Commander, Senior Vice Commander, and Treasurer.
- The report must be audited by three eligible members (excluding unit Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Adjutant, Treasurer, Finance Committee or non-Auxiliary members) and their individual signatures affixed to the report in the appropriate section.

If you need additional assistance, please contact your state department.