

DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News



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



“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter the words, but to live by them.”

~John F. Kennedy

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From the Desk of National Commander Diane Franz

November is a month that we give thanks for the freedom given to us by our veterans who often missed being with family during the holidays. We celebrate the sacrifices they made for their beloved citizens of the United States of America. Don't just let the 11th of November be the only day you say “thank you” for their service. Many of our veterans wear caps or T-shirts with their branch of service. Just a small gesture of acknowledgment that you appreciate their service or even just a smile might make their day a little brighter. If you know of a member or veteran who may be alone on Thanksgiving Day, invite them to come and enjoy dinner with you. Or, consider delivering a meal to them.

The organization's membership initiation ceremony can be found in the constitution and bylaws on page U-25. If you were not initiated, take a moment to review; if you participated in the ceremony, let's refresh your memory. The Auxiliary cherishes four great principles - Comradeship, Loyalty, Devotion, and Service. Members are asked to practice these principles while carrying out our mission. Always keep your bylaw book available to follow the guidelines of our organization. Stay up to date with any changes that may have been made during the National Conventions. Just because “we always did it that way” does not mean it can still be done the way it was in the past.

Share the information you read in the Headquarters News with 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. Also, many communications are emailed to the Unit Adjutants. Make sure you check your emails frequently. Stay united in our purpose to “Making a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families.” Only you can make that difference.

National Commander Testimonial

The testimonial dinner honoring National Commander Diane Franz has been rescheduled for January 9, 2021, at the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary, 1501 International Parkway, Lake Mary, Florida. Attendees flying into Orlando International Airport may contact Diane Franz (morrilton@aol.com) to arrange hotel transportation.

Rooms may be reserved at a special rate of \$93 per night by calling the hotel directly at 407-995-1100 and ask for the DAV/DAVA Mid-Winter Conference block.

The event will begin with a cash bar from 5:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m., immediately followed by dinner. The event is \$45 and attendees may choose from Pan Seared French Cut Chicken, Eight-Hour Braised Short Ribs, or Honey and Lime Glazed Salmon. A vegetarian option is also available for \$40.

Mail checks and dinner options to Delores Roussey, 407 Fletcher St., Port Charlotte, FL 33954. Make checks payable to DAVA State Department of Florida indicating “testimonial” on the memo line.

2020 Annual Report Form Winners

While we may not have been able to meet for the 2020 National Convention in Dallas, Texas, we still wanted to celebrate the accomplishments of units. Each state department was asked to forward winning reports to national headquarters and each National Program Chairman organized committees to judge these reports.

Americanism

- Group 1—Washington County Unit #9, Tennessee
- Group 2—Mary T. Klinker Unit #27, Indiana
- Group 3—Randolph Area Unit #17, Texas
- Group 4—Westcott Houghton Unit #56, Massachusetts

Special Americanism

- Group 1—J. W. Cantrell Unit #63, Texas
- Group 2—Murphy-Borelli-Klumker Unit #7, Colorado

Community Service

- Group 1—James D. Wessinger #19, South Carolina
- Group 2—Glasgow Unit #20, Kentucky
- Group 3—Yamhill County #5, Oregon
- Group 4—Murphy-Borelli-Klumker #7, Colorado

Junior Activities

- Group 1—Portsmouth Fed. #22, Virginia
- Group 2—Clement J. Zablocki #19, Wisconsin
- Group 3—Murphy-Borelli-Klumker #7, Colorado
- Group 4—No reports submitted

National Junior Awards

- Ages 7-10—Tatum Star Morgan, Unit #56, Virginia
- Ages 11-14—Seychelles Rodriguez St-Firmin, Unit #22, Virginia
- Ages 15-17—Jason David Mellon, Unit #56, Virginia

Legislative

- Group 1—Lafayette Unit #2, Louisiana
- Group 2—Johnston County Unit #44, North Carolina
- Group 3—Russell Leicht Unit #3, Wisconsin
- Group 4—Braintree Unit #29, Massachusetts

Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit

- Group 1—James D. Wessinger Unit #19, South Carolina
- Group 2—L. Mendel Rivers Unit #44, South Carolina
- Group 3—Yamhill County Unit #5, Oregon
- Group 4—Carroll E. Prosser Unit #30, South Carolina

VAVS

- Group 1—San Isabel Unit #2, Colorado
- Group 2—Simpson-Turner Unit #27, Arkansas
- Group 3—E.A. Twomey Sr. Unit #40, Massachusetts
- Group 4—Phoenix Unit #1, Arizona



Membership Winners

Congratulations to the following units and state departments!

Group 1—Largest Member Increase

Florida Parish Unit #50, Louisiana—18 members

Group 5—New Unit with the most members

Halloran Memorial #34, New York—16 members

Group 2—Largest Member Increase

Modesto Unit #26, California—28 members

Group 6—Department Largest Percentage Increase

State Department of Minnesota—102.99%

Group 3—Largest Member Increase

Harry L. Axline Jr. Unit #22, Texas—28 members

Group 7—Department Largest Numerical Increase

State Department of Florida—117 members

Group 4—Largest Member Increase

Manatee County #18, Florida—139 members

Legislative by Julie Weissman-Steinbaugh, National Legislative Chairman

We celebrated when on June 6th, 2018 President Donald Trump signed the MISSION Act. It promised to expand access to The VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregiver (PCAFC) to family caregivers of severely injured veterans who were previously excluded. Until recently only veterans who were injured after September 11, 2001 were eligible for the program.

PCAFC provides access to health care coverage, respite care to avoid caregiver burnout, caregiver training, modest stipends, and other forms of support to family caregivers. PCAFC is critical in allowing America's heroes the option of remaining in their communities instead of being forced to be cared for in nursing home facilities. The idea that family members, with proper training and support, could care for severely injured veterans radically improved the quality of life for many injured veterans and their families.

Veterans and caregivers of all eras worked together to lobby passage of this historic legislation. However, President Trump's signature did not automatically ensure that all veterans could take advantage of this program. The MISSION Act set specific deadlines to achieve the widespread implementation of this program. The VA did not honor many of these important deadlines and many of us raised our voices in protest.

Our voices were heard and recently, the Veterans Administration announced that as of October 1st, 2020 the eligibility for PCAFC was expanded to include family caregivers of eligible veterans who were seriously injured in the line of duty on or before May 7th, 1975. The VA also announced on its website that in two years the eligibility will be further expanded to include veterans from all eras.

Over the course of the next two years, we must continue to talk to our legislators about the importance of the full implementation of the MISSION Act. If you, or someone you know takes advantage of the expanded eligibility to PCAFC, your stories are valuable. Consider keeping a journal or informally tracking your experience. Once the VA grants you these services, share in whatever means possible the impact this program has on your lives. These stories will ensure that by 2022 any eligible veteran and their family caregiver will receive the support they need.

Banking Information Reminder

Has your unit or state department banking information changed? If so, have you notified DAV Auxiliary national headquarters? If not, keep in mind that any funds owed to the unit or state department will be deposited into the account information on record, not the current account. Failure to notify the national headquarters office will result in delayed and unnecessary transactions.

Community Service by Linda Gerke, National Community Service Chairman

Christmas can be a wonderful time of year. However, it is easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season and lose track of what it is really about.

Whether you want to remind your kids of the reason for the season or are just looking for a way to give back, the holidays are a very popular time to do volunteer work.

You can volunteer on Christmas day, but you can also volunteer in the days and weeks leading up to Christmas.

The true meaning of Christmas should be helping others and spending time with friends and family. Volunteering and providing acts of kindness is a good way to achieve that.

In light of social distancing, some volunteer opportunities will be limited. You might not be able to be in person as much as you have in the past.

However, if you are willing to do more preparation and behind the scenes work, you can still volunteer your time in a way that really makes an impact on others.

There are tons of Christmas service ideas for families and individuals.

Here are a few to get started:

- Bake cookies or muffins for homeless veterans.
- Adopt a military family for the holidays.
- Write letters or send Christmas cards to the troops.
- Shovel snow or mow the lawn for a veteran friend or neighbor.
- Spend time with a veteran who you know is lonely.

“Making a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families.”

Junior Activities by Darlene Hanneman, National Junior Activities Chairman

Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, and all the Fall activities that your Unit and Chapter will do or not do because of social distancing can still be a celebration of the Veteran and the family. Our Unit is having a Drive-by and pick-up dinner to take home for Veterans Day. The Unit and Chapter can have a “Color Your World” project which involves donating adult and children coloring books, markers, colored pencils, crayons, puzzles etc. These items can be put together in individual bags to be donated to various Veteran facilities and Home-bound Veterans and families. During this pandemic, feeling isolated is very real issue and the goal is to provide a calming activity to remind our Veterans we appreciate and care about their well-being.

The seven benefits of coloring for adults: Your brain experiences relief by entering a meditative state; stress and anxiety levels have the potential to be lowered; negative thoughts are expelled as you take in positivity; focusing on the present helps you achieve mindfulness; unplugging from technology promotes creation over consumption; coloring can be done by anyone, not just artists or creative types; It’s a hobby that can be taken with you wherever you go.

Looking for a way to do Christmas giving this year???? Get your young Juniors signed up for Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library. Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library is a book gifting program that mails free high-quality books to children from birth until they begin school, no matter their family’s income. Please go online to The Dollywood Foundation to learn more about how your DAV and DAVA can help young Veteran children become better readers by putting books in their hands at a young age. <https://imaginationlibrary.com/about-us/>



DAV Auxiliary National Headquarters will be closed on Thursday, November 26, and Friday, November 27, in observance of Thanksgiving. Please remember to keep those who cannot be with their families, including military members and community heroes, in your thoughts and prayers.

VAVS by Melissa Pierce, National VAVS Chairman

The weather outside this time of year is a stark reminder that with the changing of the seasons, the VA's needs are also changing.

While not all states experience the wonderful joys of deep freezes and feet of snow, we all do experience some temperature drops as winter works its way closer. Check with your local VA's to see what their cold weather clothing needs are. Pants, shirts and sweats may be year-round needs, but are they running low on certain sizes? Make sure you ask before you buy, larger sizes are usually most needed. Are they in need of gloves, hats or scarves? Maybe they are looking for heavier jackets or coats? Instead of t-shirts are they in need of long sleeve shirts? In some areas I'm sure even thermals would be useful. You best know your area and what type of weather you have, what types of winter clothing items are in need for your area?

Any time of year, but at this time especially, your VA's and CRRC's may have a need for air mattresses, sleeping bags and blankets. And don't forget the toiletries. Soap, shampoo, lotions, feminine hygiene products and more are always needed.

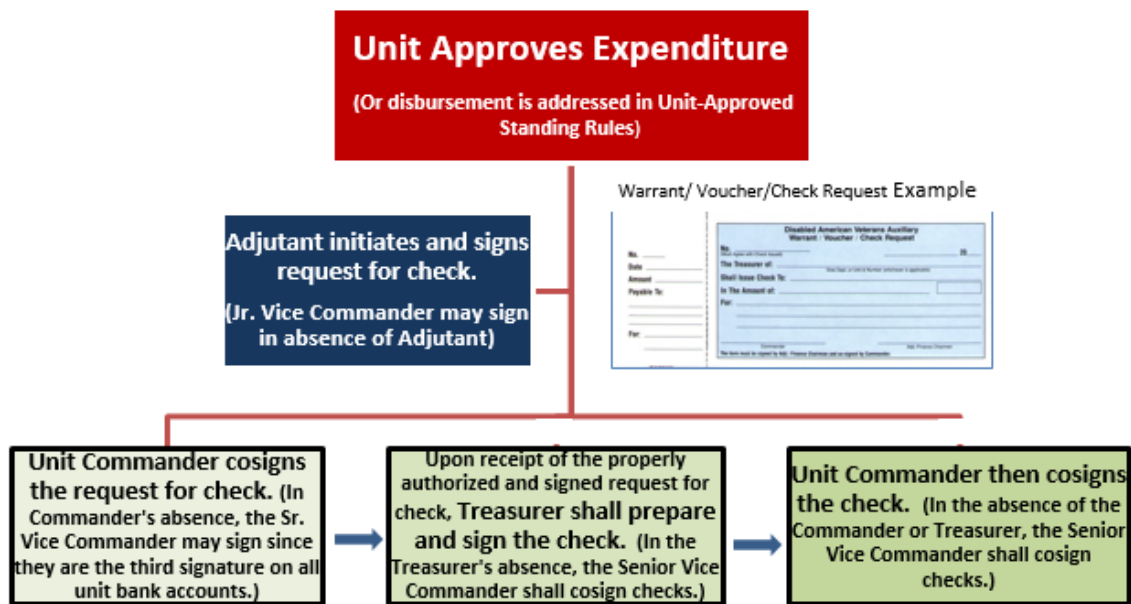
And lastly, don't forget the food. Canned and other non-perishable food items are always in need. How easy is it to pick up a couple extra cans of vegetables or boxes of potatoes when you're doing your own shopping? I have yet to hear of a food pantry that turned away donations. If grocery shopping isn't your thing, there is always the fallback of gift cards. The VA goes through them quickly and they never expire. As the holiday season approaches, check to see if social work is aware of families who may need just a little more. Is it possible to sponsor one or two with food baskets and/or holiday gifts? If each Unit was to sponsor just one family, think of how many Veterans and families we could impact!

2020 has been one for the books. Let's end it on a high note by working together to better the lives of those who have sacrificed so much!

"Though the weather is getting colder, keep your heart warm by feeling for others." ~John Hall

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!**



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.

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. 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 who fail to file the annual 990-N e-Postcard for three consecutive years can have their tax-exempt status revoked, which could ultimately lead to charter revocation. If someone in your unit cannot complete the 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. It is not necessary to pay a service to do this filing for you. Don't throw away your tax-exempt status.