

DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News

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



December Flag Flying Holidays

December 7—Pearl Harbor Day

December 25—Christmas Day

Inside this issue:

National Commander	1
Unit Spotlight	1
Holiday Closure	1
Junior Activities	2
Accumulation of Funds	2
990-N Update	2
Membership	3
2021 Scholarship Application	4
Reminders	4
Holiday Message	4

From the Desk of National Commander Diane Franz

As the year 2020 will soon be in the rearview mirror, we must look ahead to a new year filled with hope and a fresh outlook and the best way to serve our veterans and their families. There still might be conditions where we cannot be in the hospitals to volunteer, but we can still contact Volunteer Services to inquire what is needed to make the inpatients, CLC residents, or domiciliary residents feel the warmth of our caring for their comfort. Provisions for the homeless will be needed more than ever this winter. Even in these trying times, these opportunities can fulfill our mission.



With the uncertainty of how we can celebrate the holidays safely, we can still be grateful that we have the freedom to worship and have traditions of the seasons that we hold dear with great appreciation of the sacrifices made by our veterans and active military. The spirit of the holidays lives in our hearts and it is my sincere hope that you and your family can enjoy the gifts of the season that money can't buy.

Stay united in our purpose to "Making a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families." Only you can make that difference. May God bless and keep our veterans safe and bless our great nation of the United States of America.

Chapter and Unit Helps Veterans in the Community

The members of Winnebago County Chapter and Unit 17 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, recently assisted homeless veterans at the Day by Day Warming Shelter. They distributed backpacks, which were donated by DAV National Headquarters, filled with warming blankets, gloves, hats, and hygiene kits.

"These backpacks are truly appreciated and is a morale booster for our veterans, said Amanda Hammond, Warming Shelter Operations Director.

Unit 17 Commander Julie Hert explained, "It is always a special honor to support veterans, especially on Veterans Day and it's very rewarding to work with our chapter and know that we are meeting the needs of homeless veterans in the community." Ms. Hert is also DAV Auxiliary State Commander of Wisconsin. Her unit also provides gift cards to the veterans so they can get a hot meal during the day when the shelter is closed.

Rod Kalata, Chapter 17 Commander, said, "This was a collaborative effort on all levels. We are committed to making sure that all veterans are treated with dignity and respect."



L to R: Mark Mennen, Julie Hert, Rod Kalata, Amanda Hammond

DAV Auxiliary National Headquarters will be closed on Thursday, December 24, and Friday, December 25, in observance of Christmas.

Please remember to keep those who cannot be with their families, including military members and community heroes, in your thoughts and prayers.

Junior Activities by Darlene Hanneman, National Junior Activities Chairman

So, what is the best way for our Junior members to safely celebrate or stay connected to their family, friends, and veterans this holiday season??? It's about weighing relative risks versus the ability to minimize risks. We are all being asked to be considerate of others and celebrate in small groups, get outside, use inside voices, wear masks, social distance, and remember good hand hygiene. If you are not feeling well before the holidays, cancel, cancel, cancel any plans that would create exposure to others. You can call, text, or zoom!!! Does technology create challenges for you? Reach out to a junior member who can get you connected!



Hanneman family doing the virtual 5K

Gift giving is the season to give joy and to give back. Inspire Juniors to put their creativity skills to work and search online for unique gift ideas that they can make and give to a veteran family. If you are out shopping with your young member, encourage them to check out homemade items or unique presents from locally owned stores, and to consider items sold by groups that support veteran causes. Go online and check it all out. Do the shopping and shipping/distributing early and be sure to involve our young members!

Other gift-giving thoughts to share... Before you buy a bunch of stuff for family and friends this holiday season, try asking them what they really NEED. Maybe they need help with a utility bill. Maybe they need a home-cooked meal. Maybe they need gas for their car. Maybe they need a cup of coffee. Maybe they need a telephone call and someone to listen. Maybe they need help making the holiday bright for their children. Reach out and wish them JOY this season.

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.

990-N e-Postcard Filings

Did you know that our national headquarters office took the liberty of filing 990-N e-Postcards for units and state departments that had not yet filed? Can you believe that the number of entities that did not file totaled 251? As a reminder, this is a yearly requirement established by the IRS. Failure to file for three consecutive years may result in the revocation of the entities tax-exempt status. Reinstatement is a lengthy and costly process. Make note of the filing requirements for 2021 and plan early to get the filing completed. Thank you.

Membership by Darlene Spence, National Membership Chairman

We the members must acknowledge that the growth of our organization begins with the diligence and zeal inside each of us. We must further acknowledge that our growth should remain continuous, strong, and never waiver if we are to make a difference in the lives of our disabled veterans and their families. We cannot allow our enthusiasm to dwindle nor setbacks to be the preamble to our future. Yes, even now during these critical times we will need to use everything in our arsenal to assure our membership grows and stays strong.

Some may remember my having frequently used the quote from Arthur Ashe, “*Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.*” Well, each Unit can start by:

- Maintaining camaraderie.
- Setting clear and attainable goals.
- Keeping members informed. State and National Newsletters are available online.
- Brainstorming. Make it fun! Give token prizes or IOUs for Best individual or group recruitment ideas.
Hint: **Christmas holidays are near and what better gift to give than a membership in the DAV Auxiliary.**
- Sharing recruiting success stories.

Now that we have shared a few starters, what about REWARDS? Have you recruited a member? If so, **you could win a Jacket/T-shirt/Hat bundle with DAV Auxiliary logo, plus \$50 in the Quarterly Drawings held December 31, March 31, and June 30.**

Lastly, we thank each member for unity of spirit, perseverance, and commitment to the organization in order to support our disabled veterans and their families.

STAY SAFE AND MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE FULL OF WARMTH AND CHEER.

Increasing membership is imperative to our continued efforts of meeting the needs of our veterans and their families. MEMBERSHIP is vital to fulfilling our organization’s mission of service.

DAV Auxiliary members are compassionate and the heart and soul of the organization!

Quarterly Drawings held December 31, March 31, and June 30

for

Jacket/T-shirt/hat bundle with DAV Auxiliary logo, plus \$50!

Bonus Recruiter Drawing!

July 1 – Names of **two** recruiters who have signed up five or more new paid members will be drawn to receive \$250 each

(Pictured National Membership Chairman, Darlene Spence)



Recruit one new member with a minimum down payment of \$20 for a chance to win! Don’t forget about Junior life members! The more you recruit, the better your chances!

Share the incentive news and encourage others to sign up new members for a chance to win these awesome prizes!

Life membership rate is \$250.

A \$20 down payment starts a new life membership with an indefinite period of time to pay the balance. Options are available for automatic withdrawal for monthly or quarterly payments.

[Visit our webpage to sign up.](#)

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



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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

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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

DAV AUXILIARY

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“Unity”

Education Scholarship Applications

The 2021 DAV Auxiliary Education Scholarship applications are being accepted and must have a postmark date of March 26, 2021. 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](#).

Reminders:

- ⇒ **We’re looking for stories**—State Departments and Units who have done something remarkable to should share their story with us. Ideas include, but are not limited to: special fund raisers, outreach programs, holiday events, meetings, and Forget-Me-Not drives. Please send your story and any pictures to dava@dav.org. Your article could be published in our Newsletter.
- ⇒ **Membership Applications**—When sending in membership applications, please make sure the application is filled out completely, and is legible. Also, a date of birth is required for processing on all applications.
- ⇒ **It is the duty of the adjutant to always share the unit mail!**
- ⇒ National headquarters should be notified **immediately** when unit or state department banking information changes. Failure to notify our office in a timely manner could result in the withholding of membership distribution.
- ⇒ As a reminder, the practice of mailing the monthly newsletter to unit and state department adjutants has been discontinued. Instead, the newsletter is 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 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.

To our Veterans, Active Military, and DAVA Members:

May your hearts and homes be filled with warmth and happiness. In your thoughts and prayers, remember those who are unable to join their family celebrations this year. To those who celebrate the holiday season, we wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Happy Hanukkah, and a Joyous Kwanzaa Celebration from National Commander Diane Franz, National Adjutant Pat Kemper, and the DAV Auxiliary staff. Peace to all.