

DAV Auxiliary Headquarters News



3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076 | April 2021



Quota Achieved!

Congratulations to the following State Department for making 2020-2021 Quota!

Indiana

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2021 National Convention Relocation

The scheduled location of the 2021 DAV and Auxiliary National Convention—the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno, Nevada—recently canceled the July 24-27 event due to the state's COVID-19 restrictions for events and meetings. The convention will now take place July 31-August 3 at the JW Marriott Tampa Water Street and the Tampa Marriott Water Street in Tampa, Florida.

We understand any frustration this change of venue may cause our members regarding travel plans that have already been made. Prior to March 31, all reservations at The Grand Sierra Resort and Casino were to have been cancelled. A refund will be issued within 7-10 business days from the date of canceling. Should you have any questions, please call the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino at 800-648-5080.

Hotel reservations at the new locations can be made at the adjoining Marriott properties with a special room rate of \$129 per night available at both locations. To make a reservation, contact the hotel at 1-888-789-3090 or [online](#). The JW Marriott room block has sold out and rooms at the Tampa Marriott Water Street are filling quickly.

Convention meetings and events will be split equally between the two hotels, which are connected by a sky bridge. The JW Marriott Tampa Water Street will host all DAV business sessions and seminars, as well as the Day of Inspiration, Commander's Reception, Fun Night, National Officer Dinner and offices. The Marriott Tampa Water Street contains the majority of our lodging rooms and will host Auxiliary business sessions, department receptions, district meetings and convention committee meetings.

More event information will be provided as it becomes available and will be available [online](#). We appreciate your flexibility regarding this change and look forward to seeing you at our organization's most important annual event.

From the desk of National Commander Diane Franz

Here we are in April already! Most think of the spring holidays during the month of April, but did you know there are a few days honoring Veterans and their families? The month of April is the month of the military child and a great way to give back to the juniors that help during functions at your unit or chapter. April 5th is Gold Star Spouse's Day. Honor those members who have had the great loss of their beloved. Following right after on April 9th is National Former POW Recognition Day and another opportunity to show your gratitude to those Veterans who suffered at the hands of their captors. And, then the Air Force Reserve birthday is April 14th, a day to extend appreciation for their service.

We have all heard the saying, "April showers bring May flowers." This is a good month to *brainstorm* for ideas to *bloom* in your community to show how much you care and support our Veterans. Sometimes, something very simple can have a huge impact on the lives of our Veterans and their families such as cards, phone calls, or helping with errands. A very easy and stay-at-home project is to join CAN (Commanders Action Network) and let your voice be heard by your representatives.

Don't forget to check often on the National DAV and Auxiliary Facebook pages, along with the Auxiliary website for current and updated information. May God bless and keep our veterans and their families safe, and bless the United States of America.

Membership by Darlene Spence, National Membership Chairman

BE ENCOURAGED AND REMEMBER

“It’s during the hard times that the ‘hero’ within us is revealed.”

Leaders and members of our organization have always pioneered new ways to increase membership in times of crisis, and now is no different. We again recognize the challenge and remember that growth of our organization begins with the strength inside each of us. Our strength began with unity. This unity must continue to exist within each Unit, between Units, within each State, and between the States until we reach National level.

In order to continue growth and keep our winning edge, we cannot afford to slow our recruiting activities. Although eligibility requirements have significantly expanded to include extended family members of disabled veterans and veterans not dishonorably discharged, other projects must be put into play if our organization’s mission of service is to be fulfilled. We must work together to develop ideas and strategies directed toward recruitment efforts to increase membership. Together we can accomplish so much. Where some see barriers, we see bridges. If we build enough bridges, they will overshadow any barriers that seek to impede our progress. May we continue to build bridges of love and unity to strengthen the delivery of services to our Veterans and their families.

May We, The DAV Auxiliary ‘Heroes’ Forever Seek To Fulfill Our Mission Based On Support And Love.

Membership Quota - 143,331 - 98.90%

To Hit 100% Membership Quota Need - 1,575 as of 3/31/2021

HANDS-FACE-SPACE PLEASE STAY SAFE

VAVS by Melissa Pierce, National VAVS Chairman

It’s been a year since what was “normal” has gone away and is now how things used to be. But we have persevered. We have carried on our mission. We have worked to define a “new normal” as we continue to support our VA’s to the best of our abilities.

We have sponsored and/or donated to virtual and drive-thru baby showers. We have contributed prizes and funds to support BINGO events that we have not been able to help with. We have sewn thousands of face masks for Veterans that we may never meet to help keep them safe. We have donated food to VA food pantries to feed the families of our local Veterans. We have donated coats, hats, and scarves to VA clothes closets to keep our Veterans warm through the cold winter months. We have had pizza, cakes and other treats delivered to celebrate events we used to be a part of. We have written notes of encouragement and thanks on holidays, or... just because. We have held gift card drives to ease the financial burdens of our Veterans who have sacrificed so much. We have donated iPads, tablets and phone cards to not only help Veterans keep in touch with VA staff through virtual appointments, but also to keep them in contact with loved ones they haven’t been able to visit with. We have done all of this and so much more!

By now you should all have received, or gone online and downloaded, the VAVS annual report forms. Fill them out, get them returned to your state adjutant, and tell us how you were able to overcome COVID restrictions and support your VAVS programs. Now is the time to let your Unit be recognized. Now is the time to pat your members on the back and thank them for all they do. Now is the time to brag on yourselves and let your state departments and National know how you have kept your promise to help our Veterans and their families.

“Volunteers are not paid not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.” ~Unknown

Junior Activities by Darlene Hanneman, National Junior Activities Chairman

Our Juniors are making lemonade out of lemons! They are, with the help of their DAVA supporters, developing innovative approaches to volunteerism. Please continue to make cards for the holidays and special occasions, collect gifts for the holidays, provide monetary donations, decorations; give toys, board games, playing cards, outdoor recreational options. Plan drive-through celebrations and recognitions; provide items to disinfect facilities; take on gardening and landscaping projects. Junior members have answered the call to serve veterans and their families. The DAVA family has never faltered or wavered from the mission to provide needed support, time, and compassion, and this past year has been no exception.



Yes, what a difference a year can make to all DAVA members. We have a new vocabulary with words like Covid-19 and social distancing. Masks have taken on new meaning and designs. We've adopted a new way of living and are waiting for our turn to get the Covid vaccine so that we can travel and visit our families, friends, and help our Veterans and their families. Our Juniors are returning to school (face-to-face) and having less online learning, homeschooling, hybrid learning and such. Wearing a face mask and using hand sanitizer is normal to all of us now. We, as well as the Juniors, have adapted to the new normal. We all have missed our social activities and we have lost so many loved ones, friends, and Veterans and their families. Our Juniors have suffered right along with us.

Juniors and DAVA members need to continue to reach out with letters, cards phone calls, texts, emails, zoom gatherings, virtually to keep in contact. Remember Veterans and their family members who are sick and home-bound. Continue the cards, calls, outdoor yard help, and going to the store getting supplies and food for these families. Keep track of your help in hours, money and pictures.

Juniors, if you have not started to work on the paperwork to let the DAVA know all the activities that you have done during COVID-19 (2020-2021) year, please get started. Remember that your DAVA family will help you fill in the blanks.

Juniors, Thank you for all your help. Remember to give compliments freely and generously. Compliments are a good mood enhancer not only for the recipient, but also for the giver. A small tip for the recipient of a compliment is never, never turn it down, just say "Thank you."

We Love Our Vets Project

Members of Virginia Beach Unit #20 in Virginia Beach, Va., passed out Valentine's Day gift bags to veterans at the Bayside Health and Rehabilitation Center and also The Commons at Princess Ann as part of their "We Love Our Vets" community outreach project.

With the assistance of facility staff members, the gifts were distributed to the veterans and each bag contained individually wrapped items, some of which included a stylus pen, cell phone case, comb and brush set, and a t-shirt. What a nice surprise to brighten their day! Even during the course of these unprecedented times, the kind members of unit #20 continued to find ways to fulfill our mission of service to veterans and their families in the communities that we live. Thank you for all you do!



Unit members Angela Miller and Madeline Freeman

DAV Auxiliary Apparel Available

Have you seen the 2020-2021 DAV Auxiliary swag online at <https://dav.trophyawards.com/auxiliary/>? Many designs, colors, and sizes are available. Once they are sold out they will not be restocked. What a great way to show your DAV Auxiliary pride!

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



Recruitment News

Join us in congratulating Jeanne Clink, New York unit #153, and Geneva Walker, Kentucky Unit #134, whose names were drawn for the quarterly 2020-2021 membership recruitment incentive. Sign up at least one new paid member as a sponsor and you can be entered in the next drawing held June 30, 2021!

Quarterly Drawing held 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.



National Commander Testimonial

The testimonial dinner honoring National Commander Diane Franz will be held on June 19, 2021, at the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary. 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/A State Convention block. The block will fill up fast, so please make reservations as soon as possible. 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. The dinner reservation cut-off is June 1, 2021.

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

Reminders:

- ⇒ **It is the duty of the adjutant to always share the unit mail!**
- ⇒ If your unit's July 1 membership distribution has not satisfied the \$25 national mandate, an indebtedness statement was mailed to the unit adjutant in July. We recommend that indebted units submit a check as soon as possible to cover the outstanding indebtedness to clear the unit for voting at state and national conventions.
- ⇒ Urge your unit members to read this monthly newsletter online. If they do not have online access, offer to print it for them or remind them of the \$10 yearly subscription to have it mailed to them. Email addresses are also being accepted for those who wish to have the publication emailed directly to their inbox. Send those email addresses to dava@dav.org to get added to the list.
- ⇒ Units experiencing difficulties, whether it be electing officers, establishing a quorum, or participation concerns, should reach out to their **state department** leadership for assistance and guidance.
- ⇒ Units are no longer required to make quota by April 30 to be eligible for the Mae Holmes National Outstanding Unit award. Each unit is required to complete this form so that the NEC for their district is able to complete their annual report to include those amazing works.