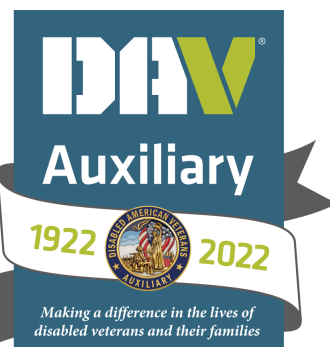


DAVA Auxiliary Newsletter

860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018

November 2021



This Veterans Day, take time to pause and reflect on the service and sacrifice of the brave men and women who fought for our great country. We don't know them all, but we owe them all. God bless our men and women who have served.

From the Desk of National Commander Lynn Helms Prosser

I want to take a few minutes to again reflect on our DAVA Fall Conference held in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. We have heard a lot of positive remarks about the entire conference and really appreciate your comments. A lot of planning and hard work from Adjutant Pat and her staff, all the skits and programs by officers and chairmen, along with your participation really set the stage for our successful conference. I really want to thank our Past National Commanders for attending and their continued support, especially sharing their knowledge and expertise. Also, I want to thank the National Executive Committee Members and an overwhelming number of state and unit commanders and officers for their participation. All of our members are priceless and you are very much appreciated for all you do to help fulfill our mission of service to our injured and ill veterans and their families.



As your Commander, I want to thank all of the state departments, units, and members for their very generous monetary donations toward supporting our programs. Your donations ensure that our Educational Programs, Service Program, Caregivers Initiative Program, Camp Corral and other numerous programs can be successfully funded. Please and thank you to state departments and units for adding these donations to your annual budgets.

As I write this article, I know that many of you are planning events and celebrations around November 11, Veteran's Day. Be sure to thank our veterans every day whenever you have that opportunity. Don't miss out on parades and special events in your community to show your support and patriotism. Now is a great time to visit classrooms, talk about honoring our Flag and veterans, and taking part in events planned at your local schools. Also, please, never miss an opportunity to support hospitalized, nursing home and homebound veterans. The blessings and rewards will be truly yours.

We know that COVID is still very real. If your meetings and events have to be cancelled, I encourage you to use social media or make phone calls to stay connected to your officers and members and engage in positive acts of kindness to everyone. Try to discuss ways to support veterans and their families, recruit new members and contact your present members that may be experiencing personal distress.

Please remember that our new Constitution and Bylaws and revised Auxiliary Procedure and Program Manuals are available and can be ordered at www.davastore.org. These teaching tools are so helpful and answer so many questions you may have.

May God bless our veterans, our troops and their families. May we always stay "America Strong"!

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Membership by AnnMarie Hurley, National Membership Chairman

As I mentioned at the Fall Conference, which was wonderful by the way: Membership is the lifeblood of the Auxiliary, and it is important that each of us does our part in keeping the organization we love vibrant and effective. There are so many ways our Auxiliary helps veterans and their families, and, as a result, the community at large.

We have programs to be proud of that benefit veteran families in many ways:

- Guiding members and their families to work with the DAV through the process of filing and appealing a VA claim;
- The DAV legislative program, which we participate in, helps pass legislation beneficial to disabled veterans, their families and survivors;
- The Auxiliary volunteers countless hours at VA hospitals and other veteran facilities;
- We volunteer in the DAV's VA transportation program;
- We have the Auxiliary's Education Program scholarships available to those eligible;
- We have the Caregiver Initiative Program;
- And, we have the Service Program for surviving spouses going through a hard financial time.

The Auxiliary offers so much in addition to the camaraderie and life-long friendships of those who attend their meetings. Trust me: I'm still best friends with two women I met when I first started working for the DAV in the early 70's: Jean & Donna. But, if those you sign up never plan to attend a meeting, tell them their membership alone is huge for our disabled veterans and survivors. Numbers really count when it comes to passing legislation for the benefit of veterans and their families.

Please work on signing up members. Start with one; it will feel so good, you might soon sign another. The population percentages attained as of September 1st for the states were mostly in the upper 90% tier, so all of us reaching goal this year is attainable if we each put in the effort and sign up at least one member.

Keep track of the new members you recruit. One way to make a membership drive fun would be for your units to have a prize at each meeting for the member who signed up the most new members since the last meeting, or put the names of those who signed up a member in a hat, or box, or whatever is nearby and pull out a name. The Grand Prize Winner could win a pen for filling out paper applications, or a stylus for signing up members online; it could even be a \$5.00 prize to the grand prize winner—nothing expensive. The idea is encouraging membership, having some fun with it, and helping to reach the unit's membership goal for the year.

Good luck with reaching your membership goals and spreading the good word about the DAV and our DAV Auxiliary.

National Commander Testimonial Dinner

The testimonial dinner honoring National Commander Lynn Helms Prosser will be held March 19, 2022, at the Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Room rates are \$150 per night plus applicable taxes. For reservations, call 800.876.0010; identify yourself as an attendee of the "DAV Auxiliary" and use SRP Code "DAV." Additional information will be forthcoming.

2021-2022 National Commander Appointment

During our recent announcement of National Commander Appointments, we failed to include National Sergeant at Arms, Linda Jimmerson, Georgia. We apologize for this oversight.

Americanism by Melissa Pierce, National Americanism Chairman

At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, a temporary peace agreement was signed and the fighting of World War I came to an end. In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson declared November 11th as Armistice Day. In 1938 Armistice Day became a national holiday. It was a day dedicated to peace in honor of the Veterans of World War I. In 1954 Congress changed Armistice Day to Veterans Day. This change was to honor not only our World War I Veterans, but to also honor our World War II and Korean War Veterans. Unlike Memorial Day, which honors those who died while in service to their country, Veterans Day honors all Veterans – living or deceased, serving in wartime or peacetime.

This year, I would like to encourage you all to think of different ways you can honor and thank the Veterans around you. While you can just stick with the tried and true “Thank you,” there are many other ways to show your appreciation. Consider inviting Veterans without family around over for a meal or cookout. If you know a Veteran who loves flowers, consider sending a Patriotic flower arrangement. Ask Unit members, Juniors, family and friends to join you in putting together a card or letter package to send to Veterans you know. Or to extend the enjoyment of getting letters, you could take turns mailing letters to the same Veteran every few days. You can make handwritten notes for the VA, CBOC or Veterans Home in your area. Your Unit and Juniors could create homemade signs with sayings such as “Thank you for serving!”, “Veterans are our heroes!”, “Our Vets are the best!,” and more and place them in the yards of local Veterans or check with the VA’s and Veterans Home and see if you can place them there. Add some balloons for a little extra something. No matter what you do, it doesn’t matter if it’s a grand gesture or something simple, just do something to show your gratitude.

“May the flag wave boldly with its vibrant hues... Honoring Veterans like you with the beautiful red, white and blue!” *Unknown*

Community Service by Terry Grabowski, National Community Service Chairman

I would like to thank all the members who participated suggestions for Community Service at the National Fall Conference. There were so many great ideas and each month I will be sharing a few that might possibly help your unit with some ideas.

First, I would like to remind units that Community Service is for what you do for Veterans or their families only. This is important. Also, there was a suggestion that not only to itemize the amount on the Community Service Report Form but explain what it was used for.

Here are a couple ideas that were submitted:

- North Carolina Unit #43, Mary Murphy, Commander—Some members make jams, jellies, pickles, and apple butter and give to Veterans at the DAV in the community.
- Kentucky Elizabeth #3, Jane Casher—They make summer survival sacks, package them, and distribute to homeless Veterans.
- Vermont unit #3, Aura-Lee Nicodemus—Haircuts for vets in their homes, grocery and clothes shop, and provide daily calls to at-risk veterans to name a few.

Right now is the busy season getting ready for the holidays, but remember our Veterans who do not have family. Maybe make a small gift bag for them. Include a soft blanket and each time they use it they will remember how kind you were. Small gestures go a long way. It is so important to make them feel loved. You can make holiday cards for our Veterans in nursing homes. Why not go decorate a door for a Veteran that might not be able to do it. Just remember after the holidays to take them down. There are so many more things you can do. Use your imagination, and please email me any ideas you have or questions for Community Service at dava@dav.org.

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



Reminders

- External access to the membership system is not available. If a report is needed, please contact national headquarters for assistance.
- DAV Auxiliary bylaw books are available for purchase through davstore.org.

"We must find the time
to stop and thank the
people who make a
difference in our lives."

-John F. Kennedy

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

DAV AUXILIARY

Lynn Helms Prosser
National Commander

860 Dolwick Dr.
Erlanger, KY 41018

Patricia Kemper
National Adjutant

Phone: 877.426.2838
Fax: 859.442.2095
E-mail: dava@dav.org



"Lighting the Pathway for DAV and DAV Auxiliary"

Ask Your National Commander!

Welcome to the "Ask your National Commander" corner! Each month, we will dedicate time to answer questions that we most commonly receive. If you have a questions, please send it to us at dava@dav.org. No question is too big or too small.

Q: How many meetings must a unit hold each year?

A: Units are required to hold at least four (4) meetings per year; however, units tend to find that more frequent meetings provide better productivity.

Q: Who are the authorized signers on unit bank account(s)?

A: The Treasurer establishes and maintains a bank account in the name of the Unit, Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. The three required authorized unit signatures shall be the Commander, Senior Vice Commander, and Treasurer. Two signatures are required on all unit checks.

Q: Who is authorized to contact the bank concerning the unit bank account?

A: Any of the three authorized signers have the authority to check or review the account status.

Q: How does our unit receive communication from national headquarters?

A: Any communication from the national organization will be sent to the unit adjutant whose responsibility is to appropriately disseminate the information.



DAV Auxiliary National Headquarters will be closed on Thursday, November 25, and Friday, November 26, in observance of Thanksgiving.

As we reflect on the past year and some of us embrace family traditions, please remember to keep those who cannot be with their families in your thoughts and prayers.