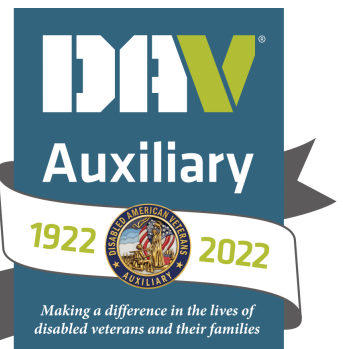


DAVA Auxiliary Newsletter

860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018

April 2022



**YOU
DID IT!**

Quota Achieved!

Congratulations to the following State Departments for reaching 2021-2022 Quota!

Florida
Idaho
Louisiana
New Mexico
Ohio
Texas
Vermont
Wyoming

Inside this issue:

National Commander	1
Helping Veterans	1
Membership	2
VAVS	2
Junior Activities	3
Americanism	3
Ask the Commander	4
Forget-Me-Not Lunch	4

From the Desk of National Commander Lynn Helms Prosser

During my trip to Washington for Mid-Winter Conference, I had the honor of placing a beautiful DAVA wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery. I experienced such an overwhelming feeling of love and peace of being in the presence of all the heroes buried on these sacred grounds. The true meaning of sacrifice was all around and engulfed every emotion I had. I will forever be changed by this experience.

I want to remind all unit members that it is time to fill out your Annual Report Forms. Please work together and share with everyone what you are doing to fulfill our mission. They are also an important learning tool for others.

It's also time for elections. Please step up and volunteer for an elected office or as an appointed chairman. We have suffered a blow to our strength due to COVID and need to rebuild and be better and stronger than ever. Thank you for all you do for our veterans, their families and our organization.

It's time to prepare for state conventions. Please make every effort possible to attend and represent your unit. Also, please consider taking a position as an officer or chairman at the state level. We need strong leadership in ALL areas, so know that we need you!!! Again, thank you for all you do.

I want to thank everyone that attended my testimonial dinner on March 19. It was such an honor and I appreciate all that everyone did to make it a perfect night for me. I also want to thank everyone that couldn't come for the beautiful cards, gifts and prayers.

Keep our soldiers in harms way in your prayers. May God continue to bless our country and keep us "America Strong!"



Helping Veterans, One Community at a Time

Recently, members of York County Victory Unit #13 in Yorktown, Virginia, completed a community service project in conjunction with the Hampton Help Office.

Unit members shopped for, and collected, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, and other hygiene products for veterans in need through this facility. Each item was placed in a hand-crafted bag. Two carts full of the special bags were delivered this year for distribution.

"We delivered what we would normally bring to a Stand Down. Due to COVID, the event was not held; however, we wanted to provide the supplies needed to support veterans in our area," said Sabrina Tazwinsky, Unit #13 Commander.

Great work Unit #13! Have a story to share? [Send it to dava@dava.org](mailto:dava@dava.org).



Membership by AnnMarie Hurley, National Membership Chairman

When I spoke with a DAV friend about this Membership article, he suggested I remind all of you that our members, both DAV and Auxiliary, are entitled to the DAV Member Advantages Program, where you can “Eat, Play, Shop and Travel” with expanded DAV Member discounts, which means more access to special discounts and savings on national and regional brands. DAV or Auxiliary members can log in [here](#) using their membership number to learn about the program.

Some of the companies that are a part of this program include: Disneyland Resort, SeaWorld Parks, Universal Orlando Resort, Cabela’s, Subway, Burger King, Jersey Mike’s Subs, IHOP, Buffalo Wild Wings, and Taco Bell. I’m getting hungry here, but you get the idea. Log in and see the many places where you can receive discounts.

If you have questions about expanded member discounts, email partners@dav.org.

I want to congratulate the states that have reached or surpassed their membership quota for this year. There are eight state departments as of March 29. **CONGRATULATIONS - FLORIDA, IDAHO, LOUISIANA, NEW MEXICO, OHIO, TEXAS, VERMONT, AND WYOMING.**

There are eleven states that need ten members or fewer in order to reach their quotas. You have April, May and June to reach or exceed quota. It is doable; please, put every effort into reaching quota, so all of our states will. It can be done. The DAV did it last year; if they can do it, the DAV Auxiliary can do it. Each DAV member has family members who are eligible for the Auxiliary. Come on now, let’s all do our best.

As of today, our Auxiliary has 3,750 Junior members, 8,583 part-life members and 128,184 full-paid life members, for the total of 136,767 paid life members and a grand total of 140,517 members. We need a total of **447** members to reach quota; if each unit puts forth their best efforts, **THIS CAN BE DONE; OUR QUOTA CAN BE REACHED. LET’S GO!!!** Best wishes on your membership work.

VAVS by Patty Davis, National VAVS Representative

National Volunteer week is April 17—23, and this year, a new program is being implemented at the Department of Veterans Affairs. VetServe2022 centers around the VA’s greatest civic assets—Veterans!

The VA has launched [RallyPoint](#), a place to share stories about your service in the VA system, success stories, organizational recognitions, and opportunities for volunteers. There is no cost for using the system, and users are encouraged to not only post about National Volunteer Week, but beyond.

We are all a part of the Veteran community, and this new program will not only amplify community and VA volunteer opportunities through social media, websites, and newsletters, but will also encourage volunteerism amongst veterans, their caregivers, families, and survivors. It is also a program to increase the trust in VA and the VSO Community and increase awareness and enrollment in VA programs.

As we all know, volunteerism has steadily declined, even pre-COVID, because families do not have the time they used to for activities outside of their day-to-day lives. There are a variety of opportunities available that do not require time away from your family, so we encourage you to reach out through RallyPoint to learn more, or to see how community members can volunteer within our organization.

Consider this; everyone goes shopping. Whether they do it online and have it delivered, or are shopping in person, it would be easy to share a list of needed hygiene or personal items needed at the VA. Your unit or state department can organize a time to drop off these items and later deliver them to your local facility. By sharing this opportunity, you are not only providing awareness for our organization, but also serving veterans within the VA system. It’s a win-win for all involved.

I look forward to hearing many success stories from this new program! Good luck!



Who is ready to win some cash? by Anissa Rader, National Junior Activities Chairman

Who is the future of the DAV Auxiliary? **JUNIORS!**

How do we secure a future for DAV Auxiliary? **RECRUITMENT!**

What unit could use up to \$1,200 just for recruiting? **ALL OF THEM!**

Calling all Junior member recruiters! Is your unit ready to win one of three cash prizes? Being entered is easy!

- Sign up new paid Junior members with a minimum down payment of \$20.
- Make a payment on a current Junior member of at least \$10.
- For each Junior payment received, your unit will receive a point. The top three units with the most points between April 1 and June 30 will win cash prizes*.

1 st Place - \$1,200 2 nd Place - \$1,000 3 rd Place - \$800

*These prizes have been donated by William A. Smith, Jr., Unit #2 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and the winners will be paid directly from the unit at the close of the contest.

Americanism by Melissa Pierce, National Americanism Chairman

April..... We have moved past the worst parts of winter and are creeping toward warmer days. We are beginning to think about our summer plans and vacations. We are gearing up for our State Conventions and National Convention. All of this is great, but we must also pause to take note of a couple very important remembrances that occur in the month of April.

April 5th is Gold Star Spouses Day (Gold Star Wives Day). Although most of us know what this is, there may be some who are unfamiliar with the term Gold Star. The Gold Star tradition began during WWI. During WWI, service flags or banners were flown by military families. These flags had blue stars for every family member serving in uniform. If one of their loved ones died while serving, the blue star was replaced by a gold star so the community knew the sacrifice the family had paid in the fight for freedom. In later years, the tradition evolved into the military awarding a Gold Star lapel button to surviving family members. This day offers us a chance to remember the spouses, and their families, of our military service members who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

April 9th is National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day. This day honors all our POWs who have often endured brutal hardship at the hands of their captors. April 9th, 1942, US Forces were captured by the Japanese in the Bataan Peninsula. Those captured were marched 65 miles to the prison camp (Bataan Death March). They didn't have medical attention or adequate food and water. Thousands died. In 1984, former POWs began to seek a day recognizing these and other former POWs. In 1988, Congress passed legislation setting April 9th to commemorate the prisoners taken on Bataan. Every year since then, through legislation and Presidential Proclamations, National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day continues.

As we move through the beginning of April, please take a moment to recognize and remember those families who have lost members in the line of service and our POWs. As Auxiliary members we are responsible for the continuing of tradition and making sure our knowledge is passed on. Make it a priority to share the importance of these days not only with our members, but also with our Juniors and communities. Share their meaning. Share their history. Share why it is so important to always remember them.

“Home of the free, because of the brave.” ~ <i>Unknown</i>
--

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



Reminders

- External access to the membership system is not yet available. If a report is needed, please contact national headquarters for assistance.
- DAV Auxiliary bylaw books are available for purchase through davstore.org.
- When requesting a membership list, please call DAV Auxiliary national headquarters at 877-426-2838, option 8, or email dava@dav.org.

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

Bunny Clos
National Adjutant

Phone: 877.426.2838, option #8
E-mail: dava@dav.org
www.davauxiliary.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 question, please send it to us at dava@dav.org. No question is too big or too small.

Q: My unit Adjutant isn’t receiving any mail from national headquarters. Why?

A: The practice of sending multiple mailings per year to units was discontinued. National headquarters sends out one mailing per year in April, which includes the call to national convention, delegate form, national fall conference flier, officer report, financial report, and directions for each form. Membership lists can be requested by email dava@dav.org or telephone 877-426-2838, option 8.

Q: Can you leave blank spaces on the annual report forms?

A: Yes. In a previous newsletter, it was explained that no blank spaces should be left on report forms. In cases that something is not applicable to the unit, it is acceptable to leave that section blank. The unit cannot be disqualified.

Forget-Me-Not Luncheon—Ticket Pre-Sale Information

Tickets to the Forget-Me-Not luncheon at National Convention **must** be purchased in advance. No luncheon tickets will be available for purchase on site. Checks may be sent to national headquarters at any time and should be earmarked “Forget-Me-Not Luncheon” with the number of tickets requested. Those wishing to pay with a credit/debit card may call national headquarters between now and the reservation cutoff date of July 15, 2022.

The cost of the luncheon is \$52.00 per person. The menu is a Caesar Salad, Beef Brisket with BBQ Sauce, Corn Bread, Green Beans, New York Style Cheesecake with Berry Coulis, Water, Hot Tea, and Coffee.

Please send checks to national headquarters at 860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018.

Luncheon tickets will be available for pick-up beginning Thursday, August 4, 2022, in the DAV Auxiliary office. Pick-up location to be determined.