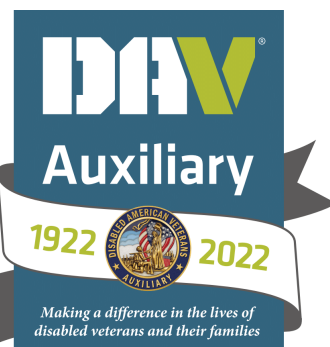


# DAV Auxiliary Newsletter

860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018

May 2022



## *Quota Achieved!*

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

Arizona  
Florida  
Idaho  
Indiana  
Louisiana  
Massachusetts  
Nevada  
New Mexico  
Ohio  
Texas  
Utah  
Vermont  
Wyoming

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## From the Desk of National Commander Lynn Helms Prosser

I hope that everyone had a blessed Easter. May is here and I'm sure we all welcome the budding trees, green grass, and blossoming flowers. This is my favorite season of the year, well, after the pollen gets washed away by the warm showers. I want to encourage you to find your happy place by calling your family and friends and plan some enjoyable time together. Spreading love, friendship and laughter are the best ways to relieve stress and bring joy back in our hearts.

Our organization needs you now more than ever. Our DAV and DAV Auxiliary departments are planning state conventions over the next few months and your support and attendance is crucial. I hope that you are planning to attend and will consider volunteering for a position as an officer or committee chairman. The pandemic may have taken some wind from our sails, but we can come back stronger than ever if we work together as a team and, more importantly, as a family.

A National DAVA representative may be attending your convention to assist officers, members, and present a school of instruction. Your convention is a wonderful time to receive educational material, attend seminars, ask important questions, see old friends, and make new ones. We are stronger in numbers and membership growth is imperative to our lifeline so we can carry out our mission of service, not only for the present, but for years to come.

I want to thank all of you that have been able to continue volunteering to assist our veterans and their families through our programs: Americanism, Community Service, Junior Activities, Membership, Legislation, and VAWS. At our 2021 National Convention in Tampa, Florida, Past National Adjutant Pat Kemper encouraged all units and state departments to complete 100 good deeds for veterans and/or their families in honor of our Centennial. Pat asked that you send us stories, including pictures, to [dava@dav.org](mailto:dava@dav.org). Let's join Pat with this great idea and flood National Headquarters with your accomplishments!!!

Please join me in wishing Elizabeth Rauh of New York #118 a very happy 104th birthday! May God continue to bless each one of you, our veterans and their families, our troops especially those serving in harms way. May we always stay "America Strong."



## National Convention Pre-Registration Now Available!

Members and guests of DAV Auxiliary attending the national convention in Orlando, Florida, may now register online by visiting the [early registration website](#). The cost for registration is \$25 per person, including guests over the age of 18. Junior members should also be registered as a non-paying attendee to receive a badge for events. If you encounter any problems, please contact our office.

## Community Service by Terry Grabowski, National Community Service Chairman

As we unwind from 2021-2022, I hope everyone is filling out their Community Service Annual Report Forms and sending them to the State Adjutant. Remember, community service is for helping Veterans and their families only. Don't forget to sign the form and, if over \$1000, itemize the expenses. If you need help with the form, please contact me at [dava@dav.org](mailto:dava@dav.org). I am hoping to see every unit fill out the form to show the amazing work you do.

Going back to National Fall Conference, here are some more ideas submitted.

- ⇒ Michigan City, Indiana, #23, helped a veteran by cleaning up their yard, weeding, mowing the grass, and helping with other miscellaneous jobs. Afterwards, they had a cookout! Both Junior and Senior members helped with the project.
- ⇒ Decatur, Texas, #70, built wheelchair ramps for veterans. They also gave goody bags full of necessities to veterans in nursing homes.
- ⇒ Pikeville, Kentucky, #134, assisted veterans with clean-up by cutting down trees and cleaning brush after devastating storms hit.
- ⇒ Dorchester, Massachusetts, #3, knit lap robes for hospitalized Veterans.
- ⇒ Taylorsville, North Carolina, #84, does a "poor boys" dinner each year for veterans and their families. A "poor boys" dinner includes pintos and beans, cornbread, and greens, along with dessert. A simple dinner, but a huge hit!

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## Membership by AnnMarie Hurley, National Membership Chairman

There is an exciting new promotion for signing up new Junior members to DAV Auxiliary. You need to get started on it right away because the timeframe for earning prizes ends in June!

National Headquarters, with the generosity of a unit, is running a promotion for Junior recruitment! 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 \$20.00.

Make a payment on a current Junior member of at least \$10.00. For each Junior payment received, the unit will receive a point. The top three units with the most points between April 1 and June 30 will win cash prizes.

1st Place—\$1,200.00; 2nd Place—\$1,000.00—3rd Place—\$800.00. 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.

Juniors are our future. Signing up juniors is one of the most important things we can do as Auxiliary members. Let's all do what we can to encourage Junior membership starting today. Good Luck! Maybe your unit will be one of the three grand prize winners.

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## DAV Auxiliary Unit Awards Essay Winners in Oklahoma

Rogers County unit #44 in Claremore, Oklahoma, held an essay contest at the schools in Rogers County, asking students to write about Americanism. Three Claremore High School seniors were presented with awards. The three winners, Seniors Abigail Jones, Blake Houghland and Leah Krueger, earned 1st, 2nd and 3rd place respectively and each receive a QuickTrip gift card of varying values as a prize.



The project, led by unit Chaplain and Americanism Chairman JoAnn Willm, was excited to be the chairman of this committee, and hopes to hold another competition in the fall. The unit would also like to get additional schools involved.

"The competition was a great way to see how younger kids view America and to get them involved with veteran programs in the area," said Millie Moseley, Unit Commander. Great job, unit #44!

## Betty J. Wimmer—Past National Commander

DAV Auxiliary Past National Commander Betty J. Wimmer of Wausau, Wisconsin, passed away on March 15, 2022. Betty was elected National Commander in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1985. A chartered member of G.C. Graveen Unit #64 in Wausau, Betty held the position of the Unit's first Commander for seven years.

Betty was born and raised in Appleton, Wisconsin, and is a graduate of Lawrence University. She became eligible for membership through her first husband LeRoy "Bud" Schultz, a 100% disabled Army veteran who served in World War II. Together, they had one son, Craig (Kelly) Schultz. Bud passed away in 1970. In 1973, she remarried to Rupert "Rup" Wimmer, a 100% disabled veteran who served in Korea and was medically discharged from the Army.

Mrs. Wimmer has held many elective and appointed positions on the unit and state level. She served as State Commander in 1976-1977, and went on to serve 20 terms as State Judge Advocate before she "retired." She also served four terms as State Adjutant.

Nationally, Betty served on the Constitution and Bylaws Interim Committee and as the National Hospital Chairman. She served all elected positions, with the respective committee chairmanships, leading up to her term as National Commander, the organizations highest honor.

Betty is involved in numerous civic, professional, and volunteer organizations, including the Purple Heart Auxiliary, American Legion Auxiliary, and VFW Auxiliary. She had a special place in her heart for animals, especially cats.

The Disabled American Veterans and Auxiliary were the loves of her life. She always had the organizations best interests at heart. She truly embodied the heart and soul of a member who strived to make a difference. She was an inspiration and role model to many.



## Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit by Melissa Pierce, National Chairman

### *When you think, "Mae Holmes," think "Membership!"*

Mae Holmes was a remarkable woman whose personality showed love, selflessness, a bit of trickery and sheer grit when it came to her leadership in the DAV Auxiliary. One of her main goals was growing the Auxiliary's membership. Some of her traits are seen in our present-day unit leaders and members. When those enthusiastically loaded units began to encourage other units as a whole and/or encourage their individual members, a massive explosion of energetically infused leaders, members and juniors is created. Now we have a larger group of recruiters through which membership can be increased. In addition, support for our veterans and their families can also be increased. Well, what do you think? Please try this idea, or other ideas, with the goal of increasing membership which will, no doubt, increase numbers on your Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit Report.

The Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit Report recaps everything your unit has done for the year. Therefore, all programs are important for completing your Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit Report. Even if you do not make quota, each unit must complete a Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit Report Form. This form identifies the hours, miles, and money your unit has contributed for the year. When reported to the NEC, your unit's numbers are totaled with all the other units' numbers and sent to National Headquarters.

Robert F. Kennedy once said, "The purpose of life is to contribute in some way to making things better." Your support of the units and service to our veterans and their families is evident in the numbers documented on the Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit Reports.

**DAV Auxiliary members we love because we can, we work for unity because we can, we serve our veterans and their families because it's our goal and we can, we live because life has been given to us, and we can!**

**REMINDER:** External access to the membership system is not yet available to unit leaders. If a unit report is needed, please contact your state department or national headquarters for assistance.

## VAVS by Patty Davis, National VAVS Chairman

During the week of National Volunteer Week, Dr. Sabrina Clark, Director, Center for Development and Civic Engagement, U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, along with Donald Remy, United States Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, held a town hall meeting with Veteran Service Organizations to show their gratitude towards VAVS Volunteers.

As a part of this event, we had a chance to hear some very astounding statistics. In 2021, there were over 25,000 registered VA Volunteers, who donated over \$1 million dollars worth of items and over \$100,000 in cash donations to VA Medical Centers across the United States. Considering the ongoing global pandemic, these numbers speak volumes to the impact of the work that we, as VAVS Volunteers, do every single day. You are important!

“Veterans lives have been saved and improved by the work we’ve done together,” said Deputy Secretary Remy. “There is no greater mission than the mission to serve our Veterans.” In demonstrating that, we heard from three volunteers, and the impact their work has had on their lives.

Please remember, there are new and exciting options available for those interested in volunteering at a VA Medical Center, which includes virtual opportunities. It is now easier than ever to find something to fit your schedule. Help us continue to serve Veterans by volunteering today!

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## 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](mailto:dava@dav.org). No question is too big or too small.

### **Q: Can you help me understand social media and statements I make?**

**A:** Social media has become a valuable tool in maintaining communication with family, friends, and basically the world. When speaking on behalf of the organization or as a representative of the organization, by virtue of a position you hold or as a member, you must refrain from negativity or statements that could misrepresent the organization. DAV Auxiliary is a nonpolitical organization whose mission is making a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families.

### **Q: Will I receive the DAV Magazine with my membership?**

**A:** Yes. However, only one issue is sent per household.

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## 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.