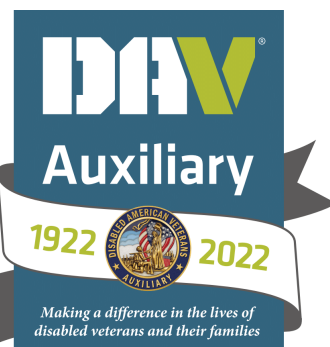


# DAV Auxiliary Newsletter

860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018

June 2022



## *Quota Achieved!*

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

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

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## From the Desk of National Commander Lynn Helms Prosser

I had the honor of attending Puerto Rico and South Carolina for their DAV/DAVA conventions in May. Members were so excited to re-unite with friends and share how they were continuing to fulfill our mission of service to our veterans and their families. I am looking forward to conventions scheduled in June and wish them much success. A big "thank you" to all national representatives traveling to the various conventions and providing any needed assistance. The pandemic prevented many of our units from meeting; however, members stated they are ready to overcome obstacles and work toward rebuilding and growing their membership. Together, we can look for new, creative ways to increase our service in our communities. Remember, our Junior members can participate in numerous programs and events like conventions, parades, memorial and patriotic services, fundraisers, and community projects to assist veterans and their families. A strong and active membership is key to our organization's future success. As members of the auxiliary, we must continue our commitment to improving the quality of life for our veterans, their families, and caregivers.



As your National Commander, I want to thank all state and unit Commanders and their officers for your dedication and service to the Auxiliary and helping to fulfill our mission. Many of our units have struggled due to the COVID pandemic and some have not resumed with monthly meetings. I know that state conventions are underway, and it is imperative that the state department identify leaders of your units and take this opportunity to render guidance and offer them assistance in scheduling a unit meeting. If time permits at your convention, please consider having an open forum meeting to discuss challenges and remedies facing unit leaders. "Light the Pathway for our Auxiliary" with leadership and communication.

If you are interested in attending the following events, details are available on our website at [dava@dav.org](mailto:dava@dav.org).

- ⇒ The DAV/DAV Auxiliary National Convention will be held in Orlando, Florida, at the Hyatt Regency, August 6-9, 2022.
- ⇒ The 2022 DAV Auxiliary National Fall Conference will be held September 29<sup>th</sup> – October 1<sup>st</sup>, Embassy Suites by Hilton, Lexington, Kentucky.

## 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

The year is coming to an end, and I am so excited to see all the unit reports for Community Service. Again, keep in mind that community service is for helping veterans and their families only. If anyone did their report and they did not get submitted for judging I would love to still see them. Also, if you have a suggestion on filling out the forms, please let me know by contacting 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. Don't feel anything you do is not important. Show all you do and be proud.

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

- ⇒ St. Marys Unit #26, Maryland, made Easter baskets and passed them out to veterans and their families who are ill or homebound.
- ⇒ Walter Rohr Memorial Unit #35, New York, raised funds to help homeless veterans.
- ⇒ Titusville Unit #109, Florida, rang 21 bells on Veterans Day at 11:00 a.m. After the event they provided a light breakfast to attendees.

Also, a suggestion for an event would be to host a miniature golf outing at a local course with reduced or free prices for veterans and their families, along with entertainment for children. The unit could set-up an area to discuss membership and offer Forget-Me-Not flowers. The unit could also have an area for food and/or beverages, free to veterans and their families. This is a great idea!

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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: When does membership take effect?**

**A:** When a representative of the Auxiliary accepts the membership application and dues or when a member submits an online application, the individual is considered a DAV Auxiliary member.

### **Q: Who can cancel a meeting?**

**A:** If, for some reason, the Commander cannot attend a meeting, this would not be grounds to cancel a meeting as the bylaws allow for the Senior Vice Commander (or Junior Vice Commander) to fill that role and conduct the meeting. In the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances that would prevent members from attending a meeting, these would be instances where a meeting is cancelled by the Commander with proper notification.

## 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.

## Americanism by Melissa Pierce, National Americanism Chairman

On June 14, 1777, Congress passed a resolution stating that “the flag of the United States be 13 stripes, alternate red and white” and that “the union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.” In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson marked the anniversary of this decree by officially establishing June 14 as Flag Day. This day celebrates the adoption of our “stars and stripes” as the official symbol of the United States.

One of the greatest displays of Americanism is our flag. Our flag is made up of three colors. The first is red – representing hardiness and valor. Next there is white – a symbol of purity and innocence. Lastly, blue – representative of vigilance, perseverance, and justice. While originally when new states were added so were new stripes, it became evident that that was not going to work so our flag went back to the original 13 stripes to symbolize the original thirteen colonies. Our great 50 United States are represented by the 50 white stars on a field of blue.

I love to see our flag billowing in the breeze in front of businesses, government buildings, schools, and homes. I love to see neighbors raise the red, white, and blue to commemorate holidays such as Armed Forces Day, Flag Day, and Veterans Day. I smile seeing children with flags held high as they scamper after candy while watching 4<sup>th</sup> of July parades. It makes me proud to be an American when I see the families that hold their American flags high and proud as they welcome home military spouses, sons, and daughters. It makes me even prouder to see the many hands that come together to place flags at the graves of our fallen on Memorial Day.

Yet, the most impactful and powerful display of our American flag is when I see it gracefully draped over the casket of a friend or loved one. This is the final tribute to those who were willing to, and oftentimes made, the ultimate sacrifice to protect the traditions, beliefs, ideals, and people of this great country. A tribute that lets everyone know the importance and esteem we have for our service members, our Veterans, and their families. In honor of a Veteran’s service, this is our country’s last thank-you.

As we approach Flag Day, think about our flag. What does our Flag mean to you? Discuss with your members about the importance of the flag. Educate your Juniors on the meaning behind the colors and the symbols. Get some flags to hand out in the community. Do something to celebrate this great symbol of our United States.

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## VAVS by Patty Davis, National VAVS Chairman

Last month, I had the privilege to attend the National Advisory Committee Meetings (NAC) in Denver, Colorado. There, National VAVS Representative and Deputies from across the United States, along with VA Staff, came together to learn more about how we can promote volunteerism, retain volunteers, and become a more diverse opportunity for all.

Are you someone who wants to get involved at a VA but cannot commit to a set of hours of each month? Did you know the VA has a virtual volunteer opportunity called the “My Life, My Story” program? Volunteers will contact veterans who elect to participate and allow them an hour to tell their story. The volunteer will ask questions and record the interview, then write a 1,000 word essay. The essay is shared with the veteran, who has the opportunity to have it added to his/her medical file, as well as share it with family and friends. If you are interested in learning more about this program, please email [dava@dav.org](mailto:dava@dav.org) and we will get you in touch with the VA responsible for the program.

My biggest take away from this event is the impact that each volunteer has on not only inpatient veterans, but also staff. With the industry average for volunteers being at an astounding \$27.00/hour, we truly make a difference at each facility we are at. The veterans continue to need our support and I encourage each of you to find a way to reach out and help today. Every little bit helps!

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

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



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## DAV AUXILIARY

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**“Lighting the Pathway for DAV and DAV Auxiliary”**

## External Portal Now Available!

We are pleased to announce that the external CRM portal is now available to all State and Unit Adjutants and Commanders.

- ⇒ To enroll, please visit <https://www.mydav.org/member-registration?tab=1>. All sections with a red asterisk are required. You will also be prompted to complete Account Information. Enter a username and **write down this information** for future logins. Your password must be twelve characters or more, and can include numbers and symbols. **Write down this information**, as DAV Auxiliary national headquarters will not be able to provide your password or reset it should you forget. Those who forget their password will be required to go through a “Forgot my Password” process to obtain a new one.
- ⇒ Once you have completed all of the information, you will receive an email from [MembershipAssistant@dav.org](mailto:MembershipAssistant@dav.org). The subject will read “DAV/DAV Auxiliary Membership CRM Portal Registration.” If you do not see it in your inbox, check your Spam/Promotions folder. **Do not use this email for inquiries!**
- ⇒ **You will not have immediate access to the system!** DAV Auxiliary national headquarters staff will process sign-up requests on a daily basis. Once completed, you will receive a Registration Confirmation email. The subject of the email will read, “Your DAV/DAV Auxiliary Membership CRM Portal.”
- ⇒ You can now login using your credentials from above by visiting <https://www.mydav.org/login>.
- ⇒ To log in, you will need your Username and Password.
  - ◆ If you have forgotten your Username, you can contact DAV Auxiliary national headquarters at [dava@dav.org](mailto:dava@dav.org) or 877-426-2838, option 8, for assistance.
  - ◆ If you have forgotten your Password, you will need to select the Forgotten Password link at the bottom of the page. You **must** enter the email address that was used during registration set-up. If you forgot the email you used, you can contact DAV Auxiliary national headquarters. **We cannot reset your password for you!**

If you are not a State or Unit Adjutant or Commander you will not be granted access. Please be mindful that the rollout is gradual so we can assist leadership as questions and/or concerns arise.

## Exciting Membership News!

Congratulations! The 2021-2022 national quota has not only been met but exceeded as of June 1, 2022! Do not forget about the two incentives for recruitment that run until June 30, 2022.

- Sponsors will receive one entry per new, paid member between October 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022. A total of \$500 in cash prizes will be awarded as of July 1, 2022.
- Units that make a minimum payment to start/continue a Junior life membership will receive a point. The top three units as of July 1, 2022, will receive cash prizes.