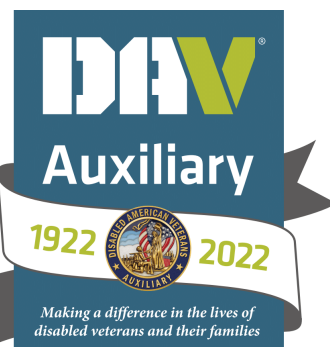


DAV Auxiliary Newsletter

860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018

November 2022



Quota Achieved!

Congratulations to the following State Departments for reaching 2022-2023 Quota!

Louisiana
Nevada
Oklahoma
Utah

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Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit by AnnMarie Hurley, Natl. Chairman

This year's DAV Auxiliary Fall Conference was incredible from beginning to end. With a mix of old and new officers and attendees and a positive attitude throughout, I thought it was outstanding. I was there, of course, to put on the Mae Holmes Outstanding Unit skit on the six categories of service: Americanism, Community Service, Junior Activities, Legislation, Membership, and VAWS.

Every one of the skits presented at the conference was a hit, as they not only entertained but accomplished their job of imparting the information on our Auxiliary Programs which is, of course, a goal of the conference. The entertainment provided later was also a huge hit.

The camaraderie of the attendees throughout the days and evenings was a joy and a confirmation of the vibrancy of our DAV Auxiliary both at the conference and throughout the country. For my part, I can't thank everyone enough for their attendance, their attention and especially their support of our Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary.

I'll tell you a quick story about my travel. My friend Donna and I traveled by plane, as usual; but this time, for reasons unknown and a long story involved, we ended up being flown to Kentucky without travel back home. Happily for us, her son Don had driven to the conference, carrying my signs for the skit and many items from three other Auxiliary members in his van. Not wanting to be driving too late in the evening going home, it took us three days. The first night we stayed in West Virginia, the second in New Jersey, and I was very happy to get to Logan Express, near Boston, and then drive home just before dark on the third day. Squished in the back seat for three days with loads of luggage and boxes (*I only got hit in the head once and it was a small suitcase*), I can honestly say I'd do that again and again and again to be at another conference like we just had.

So, thank you to our National Headquarters and everyone who made arrangements, provided the site, and the members who worked on the conference programs, and members who participated in any way possible. I hope too that the success of this conference is encouragement to those who have never been to one. Please spread the word that it is truly a trip worth taking. And, I think our own late Past National Commander Mae Holmes was smiling down on all of us the whole time!!!

Reservations are Now Being Accepted!

Make plans to join us for the 2023 national convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey, August 5-8, 2023. The event will take place at the Harrah's Atlantic City Hotel and Convention Center, 777 Harrah's Blvd., and room rates start at \$149 per night for single/double accommodations. Reservations can be made by calling 609.441.5000 and requesting the group code **SH07DV3, DAV 2023 National Convention**.

DAV will have affordable transportation options for attendees between Philadelphia International Airport and Harrah's Atlantic City. Watch for future updates in the coming months!

Junior Activities by Maxine Nixon, National Junior Activities Chairman

Like we learned at Fall Conference, as Senior Members of the DAV Auxiliary, we are all mentors and leaders for your Junior Members. We appoint a Junior Activities Chairman within our Units. It is sometimes difficult to find someone to take on this task. You often hear, "I've never done anything like that before," or "I wouldn't know what to do." Well, it's a great way to learn and we never want to stop learning. The other members in the Unit have talents to offer as well! Throw an idea out there...ask for help. With a little discussion, an idea can become an achievement. And, remember, *the expert in anything was once a beginner*.

While we are all leaders and can assist the Juniors in projects and activities, we want the Juniors to do as much of the work themselves as possible. Granted, sometimes it takes more time and work to ready items for a craft or project (in preparation for the children to actually do it themselves) than it would have to make the craft or project yourself. But, the extra time and energy will be well worth it when the Juniors complete the task. After all, when you teach your child or grandchild to make cookies, you don't make them yourself and say the child did it, do you? It took a little longer and some patience but look at the pride in the child when it is completed! And, of course, most of us are working with a variety of age groups in our Units. So, plan ahead and make adjustments in the plan for those not able to perform certain aspects of the project. And, don't forget, allow and encourage them to offer suggestions. If there are reasons their ideas will not work, try to help them modify those ideas into something that *will* work! With encouragement, today's Juniors may become tomorrow's Junior Activities Chairmen!

Americanism by Terry Grabowski, National Americanism Chairman

Ever wonder why Veterans Day is on the 11th of November and does not change? World War I ended on the 11th month on the 11th day on the 11th hour. The first celebration using the term Veterans Day occurred in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1947. Raymond Weeks, a World War II veteran, organized "National Veterans Day," which included a parade and other festivities, to honor all veterans. The event was held on November 11, then designated Armistice Day.

Did you notice that Veterans day does not include an apostrophe? Apostrophes are used to show possession. Many people think it is Veteran's day. This is incorrect. The holiday is not a day that belongs to one or more veterans. It is a day for honoring all Veterans.

I saw something on Facebook and thought it would resonate through each of us. "A man was selling poppies stopped a lady and asked if he could re-position her poppy. While doing so he told her she should wear the poppy on the right side; the red represents the blood of all those who gave their lives, the black represents the mourning of those who didn't have their loved ones return home, and the green leaf represents the grass and crops growing and future prosperity after the war destroyed much. The leaf should be positioned at 11 o'clock to represent the eleventh hour of the 11th day of the eleventh month, the time that WWI formally ended. He was worried that younger generations wouldn't understand this, and his generation wouldn't be around for much longer to teach them. We must remember those from our current wars too!!"

Please try to attend a service on November 11th in your community. If you can't make a service on that day please take a moment of silence at 11:00 a.m. to honor our veterans.

National Fall Conference Questions and Answers

During national fall conference, a question can was located in the Auxiliary office, allowing members to ask anonymous questions. Below is another question received.

Q: How are the changes to the national reports decided and who makes the final decision?

A: Suggestions are made to national headquarters by the national chairmen based on recommendations from the convention judging committees. National headquarters will review the suggestions and approve, change, or reject the suggested changes during the annual review of the reports.

Community Service by Kathleen Wenthe, National Community Service Chairman

If you weren't at the 2022 National DAV Auxiliary Fall Conference in Lexington, KY, then let me just say, you missed a "GREAT" Conference! There was a wealth of information put out to all the attendees. I sincerely hope that information makes it way back to all the units and state departments.

The Community Service program was full of fun with the "Krewe of Louisiana" hitting the floor with an old fashion second line as we played "Cajun Community Service Trivia" with the audience.

We must all turn our minds around and remember what we are all about—"Service to Veterans and/or their families IN the community".

Helping in the Community is still part of who you may be, but as a DAV Auxiliary member you should also focus on the Veterans and their immediate Family members IN the Community.

Some examples of how we as Auxiliary Members can help provide "Service to Veterans and/or their families IN the community":

1. Provide transportation for Veterans or Family members to appointments or perhaps to vote.
2. Make Lap-blankets and deliver to the local Veterans Home.
3. Unit can host a Putt-Putt golfing day for Veterans and Family.
4. Adopt a Veteran and/or Family for the Holidays.

These are just a few examples. Many members and units are doing things daily but never receive credit for the service they are providing to our Nations Hero's and their Families. Simply they aren't reporting it to their unit chairman.

I am challenging each of you to document everything that you are doing in the community for Veterans and their Families. Don't forget to turn it all into the community service chairman in your unit. I want to see details on those reports, even if its not over \$1000. The more details, the better!

The holidays are fast approaching, talk to your local shelters, local nursing homes and ask if there are any Veterans that could benefit from a small care package from your unit. Be sure to check with Volunteer Services at the VA Hospitals to see if they are in need of things for the many homeless veterans that will seek assistance during the colder months.

I hope that you will continue to work hard in the community for our Veterans and their family members.

VAVS by Patty Davis, National VAVS Chairman

It was exciting to see so many members eager to learn and help veterans and their families during the 2022 national fall conference. I would like to thank the six members who helped participate in my skit about "Magnificent and Marvelous (M&M)" volunteers in the VA System.

Each of us can be an M&M volunteer, and there are so many opportunities for us to make a difference each day. For example, has your unit reached out to the VA to see if you can make gift bags for inpatients for the holidays? How about helping to fulfill a wish list need at the facility? You'd be surprised how often the facility needs the basic necessity like socks, underwear, bras, and hygiene products for inpatients. What about seeing if there are any facility holiday projects, such as a donation drive or bag stuffing event, that the unit can sponsor or participate in? The possibilities to help are endless. Though the pandemic has made it difficult to help in-person, we can always find ways.

What about learning more about the virtual volunteer positions, especially for younger members who want to be active but can't physically go to the VA? At conference, we discussed the My Life, My Story program, that allows volunteers to interview a veteran virtually (over the phone or through Zoom), giving the veteran a safe place to share his or her military story. The volunteer simply listens for one hour. Then, the volunteer writes the veterans story in 1,000 words or less. The story is edited and provided to the veteran for review. He or she may then ask for copies to share with loved ones, put it in their VA Medical File, or simply keep it for themselves. Imagine how touching it is for the veteran to have someone just sit and listen!

You can make a difference being magnificent and marvelous! Stay tuned for more ways to help!

Veterans Day

This Veterans Day, let us each take time to remember the veterans who have served, are serving, or will serve our great country, for these men and women have fought to protect the freedoms that we each enjoy each and every day.

We challenge each of you to take time to do something for a veteran in your community; someone outside of your home. Buy a veteran lunch if you see him or her out, send them a card, drop off baked goods, or help them with yardwork. This small act of kindness shows the dedication of our members and that Veterans will forever be remembered for their heroism.

Legislative by Melissa Pierce, National Legislative Chairman

Since their beginning more than 100 years ago, DAV has been an advocate for Veteran benefits and services. From health care to transitioning services to DIC, COLA and the PACT Act, DAV has been taking the lead to protect and care for our Veterans and their families for over a century. And almost as long, the DAV Auxiliary has stood by them and assisted with the charge.

If you attended DAV Auxiliary National Fall Conference, you may recall from my program that I stressed how CAN-tact (contact) is our impact. Thus far in 2022, our DAV and Auxiliary Commanders have sent more than 31 emails to DAV CAN (Commander's Action Network) members encouraging them to TAKE ACTION on Veteran legislation. These 31+ emails have generated more than 310,000 emails to Senators and Representatives. While this is great and may seem like a lot, think of the impact we could have if every one of the more than 1 million members of DAV and Auxiliary had responded to just one legislative campaign this year. That would be **over 1 million** emails sent to legislators – talk about an impact on Capitol Hill. And if these same 1 million plus members had responded to all 31+ email campaigns this year, DAV CAN members would have sent more than **31 million** emails to their legislators – that's 10 times what has been sent this year – again – impact! Think of the impact we could have if we could get all our members, family and friends signed up for DAV CAN and TAKING ACTION EACH TIME!

With DAV CAN, advocating for our Veterans is easier than ever. To get signed up visit dav.org/learn-more/legislation and then click the green "TAKE ACTION: DAV CAN" box on the right side of your screen. Once you are signed up you should start getting email alerts when action is needed. When you receive an email hit the TAKE ACTION button on the bottom of the email and you will be taken to the CAN website with a form letter already prepopulated with your Senator and Representatives. Then all you need to do is hit "Submit." While you are visiting the DAV CAN website you can also click the "Take Action" tab at the top of the screen and then "All Campaigns" to see what the current active DAV legislation is and then TAKE ACTION.

If you're already signed up and receiving emails – awesome! If you think you're signed up, yet not receiving emails, you may need to reactivate your account. If you're not signed up, get signed up today and add your voice in advocating for our Veterans and their families. Auxiliary members CAN be heard and we CAN make an impact!

Speaking of impact – I'd like to give a huge SHOUT OUT and THANKS to everyone who donated food for our CAN-ned food drive at Fall Conference. There was an estimated 1 thousand pounds of food donated for Veterans in the Lexington area! You guys ROCKED!

Holiday Closure

DAV Auxiliary National Headquarters will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 24-25, in observance of Thanksgiving.

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