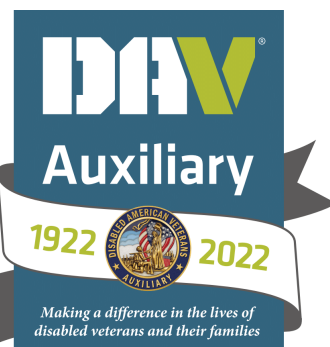


DAV Auxiliary Newsletter

860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018

January 2023



Quota Achieved!

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

Louisiana
Nevada
New Hampshire
New Mexico
Oklahoma
Utah

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From the Desk of National Commander Darlene Spence

Committed all the way serving our veterans and their families

In this new year, I would like to personally give my blessings to the efforts of each and every member of this great organization. At the first regular national convention in 1923, our organization, then called the "Woman's Auxiliary, Disabled American Veterans of the World War," had 20 active units. Now our number is more than 500. The growth and continuous change of our organization is nothing less than an incredible testament to the selfless desire to help the community of Disabled American Veterans. The communal organizing that we engage in makes a difference to the individual persons who have risked their lives in the name of our great nation. Strength of numbers and engagement in the direction of the organization are our primary objectives. I know the Auxiliary will continue to grow and flourish in the future, but we cannot allow ourselves to rest on the laurels of past success. We must stay vigilant in the face of a rapidly changing world and seek out the best ways to support our veterans.



Next month I will be attending the Mid-Winter Conference where I will be laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. I also hope to meet with my legislators and ask them to support the bills which have been supported by DAV. I recommend that all Auxiliary members also reach out to their National and State Legislators and ask them about the DAV's policy goals for 2023. The information of which can be found [online](#).

DAV's Critical policy goals 2023:

- DAV's Critical Policy Goals' Correct inequities and provide parity in compensation benefits for veterans and survivors
- Implement the PACT Act and address gaps in toxic-exposure benefits
- Ensure equity in VA care, services and benefits for women, LGBTQ+ and minority veterans
- Provide a full spectrum of long-term care options for service disabled and aging veterans
- Bolster mental health resources to ensure continued progress in reducing veteran suicide
- Expand the VA's capacity to deliver timely, high-quality health care to veterans

I hope that you all have a blessed 2023. Please remember those currently serving and who have served.

Community Service by Kathleen Wenthe, National Community Service Chairman

The new year has arrived and with its arrival it is time get busy helping our Veterans and their families in the communities. The holidays were a great opportunity to reach out to those veterans and their families that may not have had anyone to visit. But let's not forget that with the holidays behind us those veterans and their families are still sitting alone. Remember to take time to go back and check on them from time-to-time, stop by that local nursing homes to visit a widow of a veteran or that veteran who doesn't have any family around the area. Don't forget to reach out to your own members in your units and chapters to check on them and let them know they are still a vital part of the organization and they are appreciated.

The cold weather isn't going away any time soon, so remember to grab that extra blanket, a bottle of water, perhaps a pair of socks or gloves with hand warmers and keep the items in your car so that when you see a veteran that is perhaps homeless you can offer these items to them. It could make all the difference in their life.

Don't forget to record all those wonderful things that each of you have been doing since this past April-May time frame. As the National Chairman, I want to see every single thing that you have done, no matter how small or big it was. Tell me so I can spread the wonderful things to other units around the U.S. Remember, your community service should be directed towards our ill and injured veterans and/or their families.

I hope that each of you were blessed with being around family and friends during this past holiday season. I wish for each of you a healthy and prosperous new year.

Junior Activities by Maxine Nixon, National Junior Activities Chairman

I am sure you have all heard this Cherokee fable...*An old Cherokee told his grandson, "My son, there is a battle between two wolves inside us all. One is Evil. It is anger, jealousy, greed, resentment, inferiority, lies, and ego. The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, humility, kindness, empathy, and truth. The boy thought about it and asked, "Grandfather, which wolf wins?" The old man quietly replied, "The one you feed."*

We have so many opportunities in working with our Junior members to *feed the Good*. They feel *joy* in what they do for others. There is a *peace* that comes from their actions of *love* and *kindness* and *empathy*. They have so much *hope* for the positive outcome for veterans and families everywhere. Their giving actions are not for their own recognition but are accomplished with *humility* and *truth*. The work that our Juniors do does not have to be perfect. If the 2nd grader misspells a word on the Veterans Day card; if the kindergartener colors outside the lines on the flag on the door decoration; if the 16-year-old hammers a nail in crooked on the ramp for a veteran, it doesn't matter. It is still "perfect." Their hearts are in it for the right reasons.

With that being said, it is up to us, the senior members and leaders, to let the public know about the acts of kindness seen regularly in our Juniors. While they are not looking for recognition, it is great publicity for our organization. Submit articles regarding the activities of the Junior members in our programs to local news outlets and social platform postings. However, make sure you have written permission form the parents/guardians before sharing pictures. Also, in this day and age, it is important that we do not use full names. If you want to list names, please use first names only, to protect the identify of those involved. *Promote what you love instead of bashing what you hate.*

We wish you grace and peace during the upcoming year. And, remember to feed the Good!

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!

When making reservations, please remember that DAV Auxiliary will tentatively hold the Pre-Convention NEC meeting on Thursday, August 3, 2023. The DAV Auxiliary district meetings will be held the morning of Friday, August 4, 2023. Individuals from odd-numbered districts wishing to run for NEC or Alternate NEC must attend this meeting to be elected.

VAVS by Patty Davis, National VAVS Chairman

Now that the holidays are behind us, it is time to start preparing for the annual National Salute to Veteran Patients Program, held tentatively the week of February 12, 2023. This week is dedicated to expressing appreciation to Veterans, increasing community awareness about the VA Medical Center and its importance, and encouraging community members and leaders to volunteer at the VA and become involved.

While many VA facilities are slowly releasing COVID-19 restrictions, we still must be vigilant in protecting inpatient Veterans, especially during this most vulnerable time of year. Reach out to your CDCE Program Manager to see how your unit or state department can be involved. For instance, many facilities will put together gift bags or baskets for patients. Perhaps your unit can donate a much needed item, like Kleenex or writing pens. Can your unit “adopt” a section of the facility and host a lunch or send pizzas? Maybe a bakery will help make a special treat for patients. A few phone calls and a good plan can make this week a success for everyone.

Soon, state departments will be sending units their annual report forms. It’s important that each unit record each and every item done so that our reports can demonstrate what units are doing. Brag and let it be known the good you do for Veterans in the VA system. Helping not only makes you feel good, but can make a difference in the life of the inpatient Veteran you have interacted with.

I can’t wait to see what each unit has accomplished. Keep up the great work!

Legislative by Melissa Pierce, National Legislative Chairman

Welcome to 2023 and best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year!

While the year may be new, our resolution remains the same – ensuring our Veterans and their families receive the support, care and benefits that they have earned and deserve. One of the quickest, easiest, and most efficient ways for us to fulfill this resolution is by signing up for DAV CAN (Commander’s Action Network.)

As many of you are aware, DAV CAN shares important legislative updates that directly impacts our Veterans, their caregivers, and their survivors. CAN members are then able to TAKE ACTION on these legislative campaigns and send their own emails to the Senators and Representatives who represent them. While this simple action of clicking a link in an email may seem like a small thing to us, the impact it can have on our Veterans and their families is huge.

In November, DAV outlined their 2023 Critical Policy Goals. These goals include: Correct inequities and provide parity in compensation benefits for veterans and survivors; implement the PACT Act and address gaps in toxic-exposure benefits; ensuring equity in VA care, services and benefits for women, LGBTQ+ and minority veterans; provide a full spectrum of long-term care options for service-disabled and aging veterans; bolster mental health resources to ensure continued progress in reducing veteran suicide; and expand the VA’s capacity to deliver timely, high-quality health care to veterans. To learn more about the 2023 Critical Policy Goals visit [the website](#) and click the “VIEW DAV’S CRITICAL POLICY GOALS FOR 2023” tab. The DAV 2023 Mid-Winter Conference is February 26 - March 1. Hopefully we will see our DAV Auxiliary members at Mid-Winter in Washington DC supporting DAV and our Veterans.

This year make a resolution to discuss and promote DAV CAN. Talk about the new initiatives with members and Juniors each month to ensure everyone is aware of their importance and impact. Encourage members who haven’t signed up for DAV CAN to get signed up. Consider bringing a laptop to meetings to help members get signed up and take action. Send emails, texts, Facebook posts to members when new CAN emails are sent reminding them to take action each time. Encourage family members and coworkers to sign up for CAN. Make simple postcards to hand out at events that explain what DAV CAN is and how to sign up. Let’s work together to ensure legislation that impacts our Veterans is brought to the forefront in 2023!

Candidate for National Officer Application

Have you ever considered running for a national office? Elected each year during the annual national convention, national officers promote our amazing programs, encourage volunteerism, and represent the organization at various events and activities. Have questions or interested in running? Contact our office!

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



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Save the Date:

2023 National
Fall Conference
September 28—30, 2023
Holiday Inn
1717 Airport Exchange Blvd.
Erlanger, KY 41018
Telephone: 859.371.2233
[Reserve online](#)

\$139.00 Single/Double/
Triple/Quad

All rates will include complimentary parking, Wi-Fi, airport shuttle, and breakfast.

Please make your reservations early to avoid sell out! They can be cancelled in the future if you're unable to attend!

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

DAV AUXILIARY

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“Committed All the Way ”

Exciting Announcement—DAVA 4 Kids!

Originally developed in 2011, DAVA 4 Kids has been redesigned and approved by the National Executive Committee to provide grants to children of ill and injured veterans with financial need. This is different from our Camp Corral program, which will be ongoing.

To make this program a success, we are relying on donations from members, units and state departments. Please earmark donations specifically for DAVA 4 Kids.

Watch for more information soon!

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: We would like to work with our chapter and join them at the local festivals to get the DAV Auxiliary name out in our community. Does this require a vote?

A: If you are not doing a fundraiser at the event, then no, this doesn't require a vote. This is a great example of a unit and chapter working together!

Q: Can LVAP Hours be submitted on the Community Service Report?

A: No! LVAP is a DAV program and was removed from the Community Service annual report form several years ago.

Q: Can a member hold a state position and be appointed to something in our unit?

A: Yes! A person can be elected/appointed to a unit position and be an elected/state officer.

Q: Can we put state convention minutes and standing rules on a website?

A: Yes. This is a great way to get information into members hands within the state department while saving money on postage and copying. Remember, any meeting held during a closed executive session cannot be included.