

DAV Auxiliary Newsletter



860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018

July 2023

National Convention Update

We are quickly approaching the 2023 National Convention to be held August 5-8 in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Below are a few helpful reminders for planning:

- ◆ The convention hotel block is now sold out. An overflow room block has been secured at a nearby Sheraton for members booking six nights or more at a nightly rate of \$189, good until July 13. All reservations will be secured by a first night, non-refundable room deposit. The Sheraton is located less than two miles from Harrah's. Transportation will not be available between the overflow hotel and Harrah's.
- ◆ Convention registration is now available! Pre-registration must be done [online](#). For those who do not wish to pre-register, onsite registration will begin on Thursday, August 3. Credentials are required for all individuals attending events throughout the convention. Those under the age of 18 may register for free; however, they will not receive a bag.
- ◆ When making travel reservations, it is recommended that you fly into Philadelphia International Airport (PHL). The only airline that flies into Atlantic City is Spirit, but please be cautious when booking, as they charge fees for many of the services and allowances included by most major airlines. Round-trip transportation is available to/from PHL to Harrah's for \$75 one way or \$150 round-trip. Reservations must be made [online](#) in advance, and attendees should be mindful of the shuttle times when booking flights.
- ◆ Forget-Me-Not luncheon tickets are currently on sale for \$45 per person. The luncheon will be held on Monday, August 7, from 12:30-3:00 p.m. All attendees must purchase tickets in advance; no tickets will be available for purchase on site. Tickets must be purchased by July 15, 2023. Checks, made payable to DAV Auxiliary, can be sent to 860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018. Attendees can also call our office and pay with a credit/debit card.

Community Service by Kathleen Wenthe, National Community Service Chairman

With many of your states winding down for the year after their conventions, let's not forget those veterans and their families in our communities that are still in need of assistance. Many of our homeless are getting ready to face higher temperatures in the southern regions. Please keep an extra bottle of water in your car and consider giving it to them. I do not enable them by giving them money, but rather provide them with the necessary tools they need to help get them off the street and into housing and/or in a program that will help them through the VA Homeless Program. I carry the information with me and will provide it to the veteran at every opportunity. To obtain this information, simply reach out to your VA Medical Center and ask to speak to personal from the Homeless Program.

I was a little disappointed that 26 states did not report any community service reports. The 22 states that did report, however, did a great job working in the community for their veterans and families. Job well done! But, I know that there are many more volunteer hours being put in by our great members that's not being reported. Please help us by encouraging your members to report those miles, hours, and donations they have done for the year. We truly want to know what you are doing for those veterans and family members in your community!

I do have to mention that while I read through each annual report, it occurred to me that we still need to work on filling out reports correctly. If you are the member responsible for filling out your report, please be sure to ask someone in your unit what your unit name and number is. Each unit has its own name and number, it is not DAV Auxiliary! State Adjutants please work with your members to help them understand how to correctly fill out the reports so that we can effectively see all great things that members are doing in the communities!

Remember, we should all be working for the betterment of Veterans and their families in our community!

Junior Activities by Maxine Nixon, National Junior Activities Chairman

We are in about the middle of the chain for this year. School is out – but not for long! We should make the best of the time we have with our Juniors. We all know how busy the young people (and parents) get when school starts again.

There are many projects you may like to get done, but there just isn't much spare time during the school year. So, why not get started now? Could it be "Let's Give Thanks"? This could be a project completed in the summer for Veterans Day in November...or you may have something in mind for veterans at a nursing home for Thanksgiving. Or, what about "Christmas in July" – a time when your group can complete a project for December? (Maybe you could pretend it is actually cold outside!) This would be a wonderful time to bring your group together.

Please take a picture or two that you can share with the rest of us. We love to see Junior members in action. It also allows us the opportunity to share ideas. What an honor for others to be so impressed with what you have done that they want to do it themselves! So...put your mind and your heart to it! Let's get some things done. After all...*"About a half a mind to do something usually gets it about half done."*

And, just wait until you hear about some of the things our Juniors have been doing this year, when you come to convention! It is very impressive. We look forward to seeing you there!

VAVS by Patty Davis, National VAVS Chairman

Summer can be hard for inpatients at VA Medical Centers. Often times, they don't get to feel the sun on their face or the wind in their hair. What a great time for units to do a project to bring summer to them!

Work with your local Voluntary Services department to find a location at the VA that allows visitors. Decorate the room with sunshine, fans, and maybe even small, blow-up swimming pools. Get permission to bring in some hotdogs, brats, or hamburgers, with the traditional fixings. If you cannot bring it in, see if you can work with the Food Services department to organize a special menu served in your special location. Play some fun summer tunes and bring props, games, and a little fun to their day. Make gift bags for each veteran when they leave that includes yellow items to remind them of the sun. Imagine how good the veteran will feel having a little sunshine in their hearts.

While we did not receive as many annual reports as we hoped, the work on the reports submitted was amazing! Each member and unit should be proud of the work that they do and the difference that they make. Share these ideas with your state department so others can grow off of your ideas. You can even see if local units or chapters want to partner with you to spread the love even further.

As always, remember to get permission for any and all projects before starting them. Each VA has guidelines to follow. When in doubt, reach out! And if you need some inspiration, reach out to myself or national headquarters. Please continue *"Making a Difference"* each and every day!

Reminders

- Reservations are being accepted for the 2023 national fall conference, September 28-30, 2023, in Erlanger, Kentucky. As a reminder, Saturday evening dinner and entertainment tickets must be purchased in advance and no later than September 15. No tickets will be available on site. Tickets are \$60 per person and can be purchased by calling our office at 833.368.1220 or sending a check, payable to DAV Auxiliary, to 860 Dolwick Dr., Erlanger, KY 41018. Pre-registration is also being accepted and will be \$40 per person.
- When calling national headquarters, please utilize our direct dial number—833.368.1220. This number will direct callers right to our office. As a reminder, our office handles all membership requests, including change of address, deceased notifications, and requests for membership lists. When possible, please void calling the DAV Membership Department.
- If your unit or state department has completed a special project or event, please share the story with us—dava@dav.org.